

THE WILDFOWLER

SEPTEMBER 2020

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

Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Memories Hurricanes Affecting The Mid-Atlantic 1895-2020

This past week, through the magic of television news, we were witnesses to the fury of hurricane Laura as she roared ashore from the Gulf of Mexico into Lake Charles, LA and Port Arthur Texas. As a Category 4 hurricane, it is the most powerful storm to strike the United States since hurricane Michael in 2018. Laura was the most powerful hurricane to ever strike Louisiana, surpassing even Katrina, a Category 3 storm that devastated the state in 2005.



So for me, this begs the question: Could we ever see such a dangerous storm here on the Atlantic Coast? Below is an article from the Washington Post, July 13, 2017.

No Direct Hits on Mid-Atlantic Coast since 1851

If you stare at a map of where hurricanes have made landfall in the United States since 1851, you'll notice an enormous void over the Mid-Atlantic coast. Virginia, Maryland and Delaware have never been directly struck. Southern New Jersey has only been hit once.

Is there a magical shield protecting the beaches where many Washingtonians vacation and have second homes? Will a hurricane ever directly strike these shores?

It turns out storms usually miss the expanse of coastline from roughly Virginia Beach to Long Beach Island, N.J., because of its geography. Whereas the Outer Banks of North Carolina and southern New England protrude outward into the Atlantic Ocean, the Delmarva Eastern Shore and surroundings are tucked in.

“The Delmarva area is hard for hurricanes to hit both geographically and meteorologically,” said Brian McNoldy, Capital Weather Gang’s tropical weather expert. “It’s a concave part of the coastline and storms that travel that far north are typically curving to the north or northeast. If the Delmarva Peninsula ‘stuck out’ east of Cape Hatteras, the hurricane landfall map would look quite different there.”

Of course, just because a hurricane hasn’t made landfall in the Delmarva area in modern records, doesn’t mean this region hasn’t witnessed hurricane and tropical storm conditions. Numerous storms have made landfall just south of this area in North Carolina, and then passed over it. And then there are remnant storms from the Gulf of Mexico, which unload copious amounts of rain.



Long-time residents no doubt remember storms like Hazel, Agnes, Isabel, Floyd, Irene, and Sandy, none of which were hurricanes when they swept through the area, but still had profound effects on the region.

While it is true hurricane and tropical conditions can occur a good distance away from the landfall zone, the most severe impacts of hurricanes, including the strongest winds and most severe coastal flooding, do tend to focus where they come ashore. Does the Delmarva area's absence of direct strikes since 1851 mean it will never witness one's wrath? Not necessarily.

Given the right configuration of weather systems, a hurricane could be steered straight into the Delmarva coast. While not technically a hurricane at landfall, Hurricane Sandy — which roared ashore near Atlantic City, came awfully close to striking Delmarva. Not to mention, unofficial historical accounts pre-1851 suggest hurricanes have slammed this region head on.





“Although one hasn’t hit since 1851, there are records of hurricanes hitting Virginia and the Delmarva Peninsula in 1667, 1683, 1693, 1724, 1785, and 1788. So it can happen,” said McNoldy. In other words, this region shouldn’t consider itself immune. It should continue to monitor the tropics and have contingencies for a full hurricane blast.

By [Jason Samenow](#) July 13, 2017 at 4:41 p.m. EDT

Since it's construction in 1895, The deWitt Cottage has survived 42 hurricanes without her basement ever becoming wet.. Now that doesn't mean the cottage hasn't sustained some damage. In 1998, Hurricane Bonnie tracked directly over the Outer Banks; pushing the eye wall directly over the Currituck Sound and Back Bay. With sustained winds of 90 MPH and gusts to 104 MPH it knocked out power to more than 320,000 customers in Virginia. We were without power for 10 days in the Hilltop area. The chimney on the North side of the Cottage collapsed thru the roof, the second floor, the first floor and ended up in the basement. It took nearly 3 months for the City to repair the damage. This old girl has been a storm survivor for more than 125 years.



	<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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Upcoming Guild Events:

09/07/2020: Labor Day

09/01/2020 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Virtual
Bring an item for show and tell!

09/9, 14, 21, 28/2020: de Witt Garden Club
10:00 am, at the museum
Meets every Monday
No meeting Monday September 7th

09/15/2020: Board Meeting
7:00 pm Virtual

10/20/2020: Board Meeting
7:00 pm Virtual



Do you have a young adult looking for work?

Do you have a student home from college?

Do you know someone that is looking for work?

College Hunks Hauling Junk is looking for a Mover/Driver/Team Lead to join our Virginia Beach team. As a Mover - Junk Remover, you are the first point of contact for clients on the job, and will educate clients about pricing and services, SAFELY operate the junk truck at all times, help train new hires and more. Excellent earning potential including hourly pay plus tips. We are hiring immediately for part time and full-time opportunities. Contact Parke Atkinson at parke.atkinson@chj.com or call 757-702-5296.



Have a great Labor Day weekend!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends of the AWHM,

As we move into September, I wanted to provide a brief update about where we are as an organization. As discussed at our last BOD meeting, we have weathered the COVID storm well. While activity at the museum has been slow and events have been put on pause, financially we are in a good place. Through the efforts of the BOD, Lynn's handwork identifying grants and loans, and the generosity of Margie and Mark Cromwell's Spring VIP event, we were able to make it through an unprecedented global pandemic and SLOW summer with very little impact to the financial foundation of the museum. Due to the aforementioned items, while we still have a ways to go towards some return to normal, we remain optimistic that our "rebound" will be smoother and quicker than others in our community.

With the uncertainty of fall/winter, and with the safety of all members and guests as our top priority, we have chosen to put things on hold. We have cancelled our fall oyster roast, one of our major fundraising efforts. We have cancelled our annual Christmas/Holiday gathering. We will limit operation hours beginning October 1st to being open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday only. With that said, we are turning our focus and planning efforts to Spring and Summer 2021. More exciting information to come about these efforts in the coming months.

I hope my message to you this month finds you all well and while brief, one of great promise for our future. I want to thank Lynn Hightower and Martha Davenport for their commitment to change and doing things differently.

I want to thank Jacky Richards for her leadership in the Garden Club. I also want to thank Tom Richards, and Martha Davenport for their hard work and dedication to the cottage gardens. I want to thank our carvers Elaine Polizos, Roy Carlson, Ed Morrison, The Boathouse Boys (Al, Jamie, John, and Pete), and Susan Moritz. I want to thank Parke Atkinson, Larry Davenport, and Jim Menhe for their service and leadership as the Executive Committee of the BOD. Lastly I want to thank Jim Briggs, Jeff Tinkham, George Powell, Bill Walsh, Jr., Mark Cromwell, and Phil Davenport for their service to the museum and guild BOD during this difficult time.

Until we can be together in celebration again, cheers!

Jason Seward

No. 001	NAME _____	2020 WILDFOWL HERITAGE RAFFLE	Drawing will be held at the 125th Anniversary Celebration on October 11, 2020 @ 4pm at the historic deWitt Cottage 1113 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach VA 23451	No. 001
	ADDRESS _____			
	EMAIL _____	1st Prize: Hand carved contemporary Goldeneye Drake Decoy-\$1,200 Value		
	PHONE _____	2nd Prize: Day long Guided Deer Hunt in Northampton County, Eastern Shore of Virginia includes lunch and dinner-\$1,000 Value		
		3rd Prize: Day long Duck Hunt on the Eastern Shore with Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle and Chief Deputy Brian Struzzari-\$800 value		
		4th Prize: CZ 612 Magnum Waterfowl 12 ga. Shotgun-\$600 value		
		Tickets: \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00		
		BENEFITING THE ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM		

Be sure to get your raffle tickets at awhm.org



Be Safe Remember to Wear your Masks!



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

WILLIAM "Will" Kight, Jr. (1897-1977)



Will was born in Norfolk, Virginia, and moved with his family to Creeds, Virginia, where he grew up and worked as a farmer, waterman, and hunting guide. At one time he worked at the Corey Lodge on the Great Marsh as a hunting guide. Will Kight, Jr., like his father before him, was a decoy maker of canvas covered geese and swans. Those made by Kight, Sr. were branded W.D.K. Sr.

Will Kight is remembered locally as a baseball player. He played for a number of years for clubs in the Princess Anne County area in a semi-pro baseball league. At that time games were played on Saturday and- Sunday after-noons. Later in his life "Will" moved with his family to Moyock, North Carolina around 1963, where he lived until his death in 1977 at age 80.



MUSEUM MEMBERS PETS

In this issue of the newsletter we are starting a new segment “Museum Members Pets”, our first highlighted pet is Bill Walsh’s longtime companion “Alpha”.

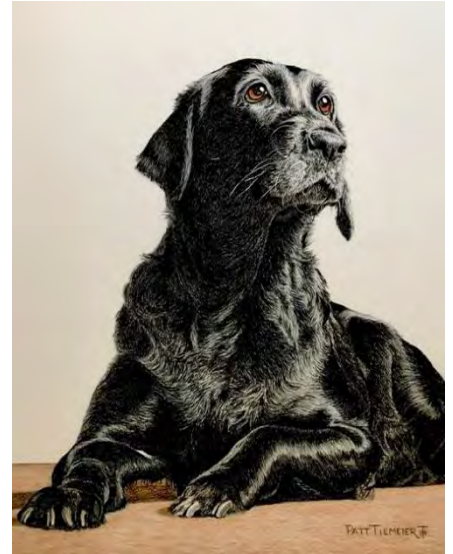


This is absolutely amazing!

This is my Labrador Companion for many years, Alpha. She is now in heaven with my wonderful wife, Alice.

The picture on the left is a photograph taken by my very talented grandson, Mason Walsh. The picture to the right is a pencil drawing, as good as it gets, by my daughter-in-law’s sister, Patt Tiemeier. She is a wonderful artist. She could do the same for your pets.

Aren’t they something? I look at them many times every day and fondly talk to them also!.....Bill



If you would like to highlight your pet, simply send a picture of your pet with a brief write up about him or her to director@atwildfowl.org or call 757-286-3092. We are excited to learn about your family pets!

Duck Hunters could be shoulder to shoulder in many states due to Canadian Border Restrictions

Things might get a little crowded this [hunting season](#).

Due to the uncertainty surrounding nonessential travel across the Canadian border for the near future, the fall hunting season may see some significant changes. Some states may see higher numbers of [hunters](#) this year and bird migration patterns may even be impacted.

North Dakota is preparing for a surge of duck hunters, the [Star Tribune](#) reports. According to the news outlet, these hunters would normally travel farther north to Canada but may be unable to this year.

One hunter and wildlife ecologist who spoke with the Star Tribune said hunters in North Dakota could be “shoulder to shoulder” this season.

In 2018, there were reportedly about 17,000 licensed waterfowl hunters in Saskatchewan and 54% percent were nonresidents. American duck hunters reportedly outnumber resident duck hunters in other parts of Canada as well.

Fox News [recently reported](#) that the Canadian border will remain limited for nonessential travel until at least Sept. 21, which is right before hunting season is set to begin.



Mike Szymanski, migratory game bird manager for North Dakota Game and Fish, told the Star Tribune, “We’re expecting to take kind of the brunt of it,” in regards to displaced hunters. “We expect there to be quite a bit of competition for hunting spots.”

Fortunately, he also said the data shows it was likely a good year for “duck production.”

John Devney, senior vice president of Delta Waterfowl Foundation in Bismarck, N.D., told the news outlet that he’s received a high number of calls from hunters seeking advice for hunting in the state as an alternative to Canada.

South Dakota is reportedly not an option for out-of-state hunters as hunting licenses are only obtained through a lottery that’s now closed.

Some hunters are worried about the effect diminished hunting in Canada will have on duck migration habits.

Some reportedly believe that reduced hunting pressure in Manitoba and Saskatchewan may cause the ducks to linger in those areas longer. Others, however, are apparently more optimistic and believe that the ducks coming to the United States won’t be used to avoiding hunters and will be easier to target.

By [Michael Hollan | Fox News](#)



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 Phil Davenport
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

Carvers are not demonstrating due to Covid-19

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Tuesday: OPEN
Wednesday: OPEN
Thursday OPEN
Friday: OPEN
Saturday: OPEN
Sunday: OPEN

Museum Grounds: Jacky & Tom Richards, Martha Davenport

MUSEUM STAFF

Lynn Hightower, Director Joe Leo, Operations Mgr.

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 March 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/YR 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!

