

# THE WILDFOWLER

JULY 2018

A PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM

## *Back Bay Wildfowl Memories* *Lee Dudley (1861-1942)*

This article reprinted from Ward Museum Website



Lee Dudley and his twin brother Lem operated Dudleys' Island Club and trapped for a living. Though they were the first market hunters in the area, they did not begin carving shooting stools until around 1892 (Kangas, Survey 3). It is probable that Lem did the bulk of the carving, but time has made it impossible to distinguish between pieces crafted by the brothers. The "L.D." branded on the bottom of some of their decoys could stand for Lee or Lem (Engers 171). Decoys attributed to the Dudleys, but lacking this brand were part of someone else's rig and not their own. Most of the carvings the Dudleys did were for their personal use, but at least one rig was designed for someone else, a member of the neighboring Ballance family.

The Dudleys made their black duck, canvasback, goose, green winged teal, mallard, redhead, ruddy duck, scaup, wigeon and few pintail decoys to replicate the actual species. Compact bodies flow from bill to tail with strong sculptured lines. Relief carved wing tips create a ridge along the decoys' backs. Cast lead weights are attached to the bottom, and leather thongs or square-cut nails serve to secure anchor lines.

The current exhibit in our antique decoy gallery features the ruddy duck drake pictured above and five additional decoys carved by Lee Dudley. We also have antique decoys by Bob Morse, Ned Burgess, Alvirah Wright, Capt. Wayland Baum, John Williams, Malachi Waterfield, Rufus Roberts, and James Best. It is a must see exhibit of many of the best collectible antique decoys on the East Coast. The exhibit is on loan to the museum by Mark and Margie Cromwell. For more information about the exhibit and the Cromwells you can go to:

[https://pilotonline.com/news/local/article\\_7c778e90-4982-11e8-81cc-2ff9e8ca7382.html](https://pilotonline.com/news/local/article_7c778e90-4982-11e8-81cc-2ff9e8ca7382.html)

<https://www.wavy.com/hr-show/i-am-hampton-roads/iahr-mark-cromwell/1171418160>





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

07/04/2018: July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday

07/17/2018: Board Meeting  
6:00 pm

07/9, 16, 23, 30/2018: de Witt Garden Club  
10:00 am, at the museum  
Meets every Monday  
No meeting Monday July 2nd

08/21/2018: Board Meeting  
6:00 pm

08/01, 08, 15, 22, 29/2018: de Witt Garden Club  
10:00 am, at the museum  
Meets every Tuesday

09/03/2018: Labor Day

09/04/2018 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild  
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm  
Speaker: Jack Cox from Elizabeth City, NC

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

09/19/2018: Board Meeting  
6:00 pm

## **Save these Dates**

12/04/2017 Christmas Party

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

Lucky Oyster May 7, 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

In case anyone missed it summer is here. We all wished for warmer weather last winter, as they say you have to be careful what you wish for. School is out and families are taking their vacations and hopefully some will visit the de Witt Cottage and experience the history, culture and artifacts from the golden age of duck hunting , Old Virginia Beach, and other items of interest the museum has to offer.

The Board of Directors is aggressively searching for a new identity possibly one connected to environmental concerns. We all can agree Back Bay has many water quality issues, in past years some of the issues were associated with agriculture operations in the area. Hog operations, we were told had a harmful effect as they were allowed (through state approval) to pump the sewer lagoons on the fields to enrich the row crop production. Runoff from the raw sewage made its way to the ditches, the canals and eventually the bay ddestroying the once abundant wild celery and other nutritional grasses the waterfowl needed in their stayover in Back Bay. Residential sprawl with beautiful lawns are the result of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides. Animal waste, equipment and automobile runoff eventually ends up in our Back Bay.

Chesapeake Bay receives millions of dollars to improve its waters and we have seen reports the Chesapeake Bay is in better shape now than it has been in years. However our lowly Back Bay receives absolutely nothing. The City of Virginia Beach does not even have one water quality testing station within its 44, 000 acres.

The DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) has two monitoring stations, both are located in the Ashville Bridge Creek, but they only test for PH and suspended solids. City engineers tell me the DEQ will be possibly installing additional testing stations within Back Bay and should be complete by 2021 however they only test for PH and suspended solids. However Chesapeake Bay watershed has over thirty testing stations

We need additional water quality testing and should include the following.

- PPM (Parts per Million)
- PPM - automobile pollutants.
- PPM - from pesticides, fertilizers and other contaminants.
- PPM - bacteria from animal waste.



- Potential pollutants from construction sites.

I believe if we can revise our mission statement to include environmental issues and concerns we may be able to attract a larger population and increase our membership, volunteers and receive grants.

Everyone is not interested in decoys and history, just look at Colonial Williamsburg with their millions gifted to them. They are financially struggling to keep the colonial capital in operation.

The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum and its members must think outside the box if we want to keep our doors open, we have aggressively tried, mainly through Lynn Hightower's efforts to develop special events and other fundraising activities. They require a lot of effort and results have mainly been break even.

The last event held at the de Witt on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> not the first core member showed to volunteer or assist in any way, this is sad to say the least. If this trend continues the future for our museum looks bleak on the horizon.

In closing I ask each and every one of you to get more involved in the museum, if you are unable to volunteer for a day or one half a day , consider a couple of hours. There are many interesting visitors who enter the museum from all parts of the world, make them feel welcome and engage in conversation, where are they from, their interest and give them ideas of good places to dine.

Most are very friendly and if you give them a smiling face you will get one in return.

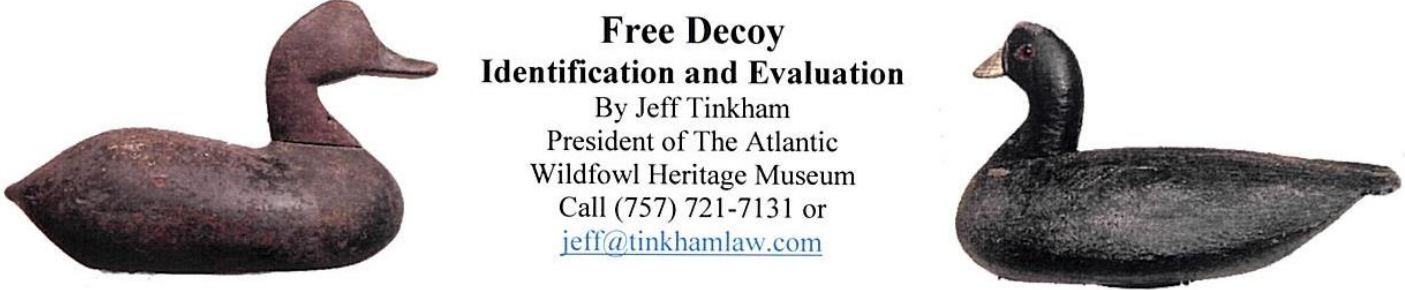
Best Regards

Al Henley

President

**HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY**





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

## *Do you love to garden?*

Thank You for all the hard work Lori, Jacky, Lena, Nancy and Lois!



deWitt Cottage Garden June 29, 2018

## *deWitt Cottage Garden Club*

If you enjoy gardening in a challenging environment; then we have a project for you!

Join with us and be a part of history here in Virginia Beach!

Contact the Director – Lynn Hightower

[director@atwildfowl.org](mailto:director@atwildfowl.org)

(757) 437-8432



## NEW EXHIBIT TO BE ADDED TO THE MUSEUM



We are going to turn one of the upstairs rooms in the deWitt Cottage into a bedroom similar to a bedroom that might have been shared by the deWitt sisters or used as a boarding room when the sisters were offering bed and breakfast to visitors. The deWitt children rented rooms in the cottage during the depression to enable the family to survive and help make ends meet. We are looking for period pieces of furniture from the late 1800's to 1930 to display in this room. If you have any furniture from this period that you would like to donate or loan to the museum, please contact the museum director at (757) 437-8432 or email: [director@atwildfowl.org](mailto:director@atwildfowl.org).

### FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

I would like to wish everyone a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and hope that everyone has a great holiday. I also want to thank all of the Board Members and Museum Members who volunteered to help with our Beer and Bourbon at The Brickhouse event at the deWitt Cottage on June 8-9, 2018. We exposed nearly 200 new people to the museum.

On June 27, 2018 we launched the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum Online Gift Shop. Please take some time to browse through the items that are on sale. . 10% of every online purchase goes to help rescue injured wildfowl or protect environmentally sensitive wetlands. Shipping on every purchase is **FREE!** You can access the gift shop by going to [awhm.org](http://awhm.org) and then selecting Gift Shop.



Our little rescued Kestrel now has a name. "Usdi Nokwisi" Cherokee for "Little Star" The Winner is: Sue Lionetti Norfolk, Virginia. By the way on July 28, 2018 from 10:00am to 5:00pm Tommy White-Hawk from Alton's Keep will have his educational ambassador's (hawks and owls) on the museum grounds for "Raptor's On The Beach". We will be educating visitor's about wild bird rescue and about all of the raptors found in the Atlantic Flyway.

The museum gardens are in full bloom and absolutely gorgeous; please come by and visit with us soon!



## VOLUNTEER PROFILE



SUSAN MORITZ

Susan is retired from the United States Coast Guard (23 years). She was one of the first women allowed to go to sea when the Coast Guard changed its regulations. She was also one of two women chosen for command by the organization and commanded ships in search & rescue operations and law enforcement. Upon her retirement she attended law school and practiced family law for a number of years. She also was a professor in the Regent University Law School. Susan is a Mayflower descendant, a member of the Sargent William Harlow Family Association and The General Society of Mayflower Descendants. She began carving in 1999 after meeting Charlie Seidel at the Virginia Aquarium. She became a regular member of his evening carving classes at the Aquarium. She is married (40 years) and has two cats. Susan comes to the museum every Friday to demonstrate her carving skills. She is a passionate and knowledgeable docent for the visitors of the museum whom we are very grateful to have as a volunteer.

### ONLINE GIFT SHOP LAUNCHED ON JUNE 27, 2018

The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum has launched its online gift shop! Please visit [awhm.org/gift-shop](http://awhm.org/gift-shop) and browse our collection of items for sale. We will be adding new items daily throughout the summer. 10% of every online purchase goes to help rescue injured wildfowl or protect environmentally sensitive wetlands. Shipping on every purchase is **FREE!**



**BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Al Henley, 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!***

