

THE WILDFOWLER

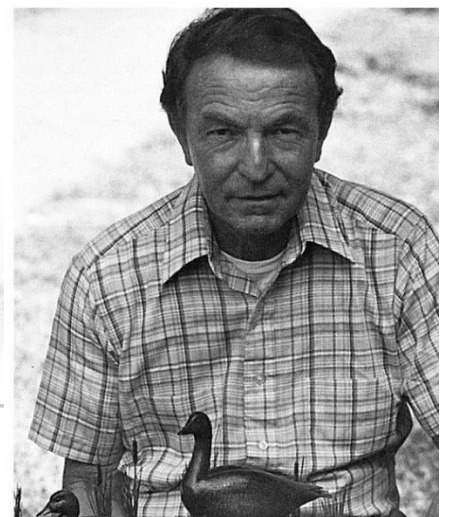
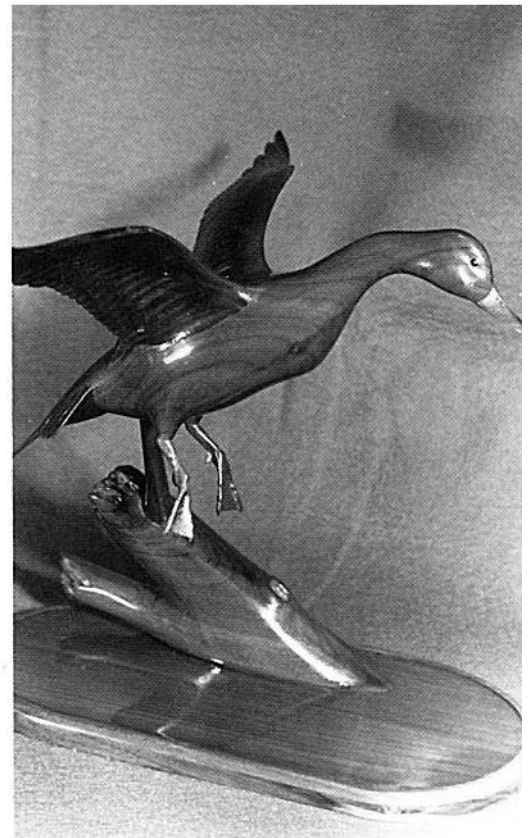
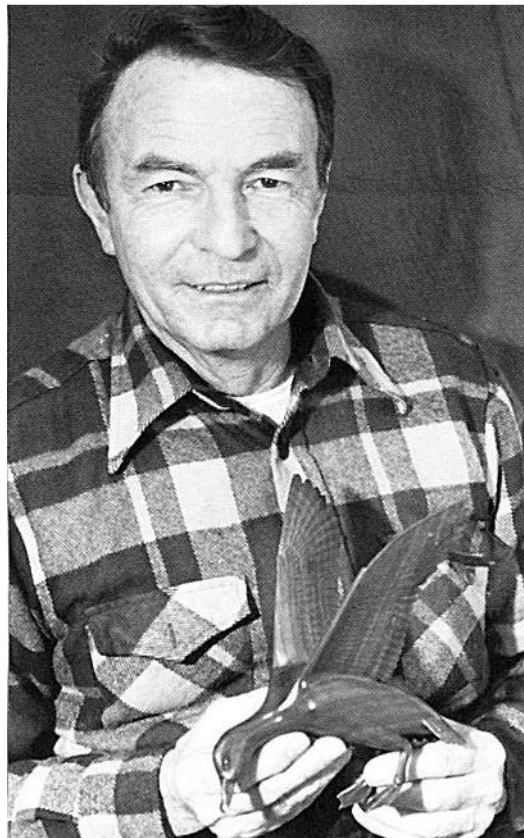
MARCH 2017

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

Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Memories

Jimmy Dunn

After retirement as an aircraft mechanic, Jimmy started carving as a hobby. This progressed to the point that he spent most of his time carving or sanding some unfinished project. Nearly everything he created was in natural finish walnut. He carved hundreds of natural finish walnut sand dollars and then mostly gave them away as gifts. He won "Best in Show" at the 1980 Mid-Atlantic Wildfowl Festival as a Novice Carver. Jimmy was a real character; he loved building mechanical and remote control ducks he could play with at the wildfowl shows!





Upcoming Guild Events:

03/07/2017: Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm
Speaker: Drew Hawkins
Decoy Magazine

03/18/2017 41st Annual Creed's Ruritan BBQ
1057 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
Need Volunteers to man table
And Carving demonstrations

03/21/2017: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

03/29/2017 Docent Training [at the Museum]
6:00pm-8pm

04/04/2017 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm
Speaker: Greyson Chesser– Decoy Carver, Guide, Story Teller

04/08/2017 Gathering of The Guilds
Historic Frances Land House
3131 Virginia Beach blvd
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
Need Volunteers to man table
And Carving demonstrations

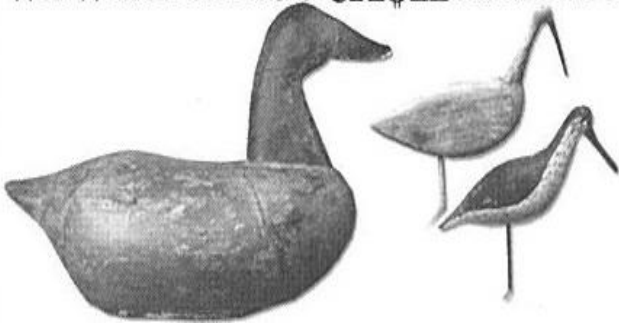
04/18/2017: Board Meeting
6:00 pm



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

The Board of Directors recently held a full day retreat at Wayne Jarman's farm on Knotts Island. We discussed membership development, fundraising, security measures, community awareness and outreach programs, the mission statement and a variety of other topics. Your Board is comprised of dedicated volunteers who are in the process of improving the museum on multiple levels. Our relatively new Museum Director, Lynn Hightower, has also impressed me with his energetic, creative and business-like approach. His robust commitment to the museum and guild have been well received. We want to build on the museum's strengths (carving guild, historic venue, unique exhibits and so forth), while (1) creating an enhanced value proposition for our members and visitors and (2) growing the museum's relevance and profile in our local region. As an example, our members will have an opportunity in April to tour the historic Drum Point Club property and learn about its history. Stay tuned!

DOCENT CLASSES TO CONTINUE MARCH 29, 2017

Docent Classes started February 14, 2017 in the de Witt Cottage at 6:00pm. Our initial turnout was small and created an intimate learning environment. We dined on Navy Bean Soup; Cabbage and Keilbasa Soup; with Ham, Turkey and Cheese sandwiches; while we learned about the Holland and de Witt families. Our next class will be about the history of the City of Virginia Beach. 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. Let's see how many docents we can train this winter. Email director@atwildfowl.org or call (757) 437-8432 if you are interested.



FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

I want to thank everyone who attended “Dine out for The de Witt” Tuesday night February 28th at AMMO’s Restaurant, 324 N. Great Neck Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454. We brought approximately 40 people in for dinner that would not have normally been there on a Tuesday night. We should easily receive a donation of between \$200 and \$300 dollars for a most enjoyable evening with great friends. We also made many new friends aware of our existence. Great job for those of you that participated! I want to speak frankly about the “Dine out for The de Witt” program. This is a really great way for our guild to raise \$1000 to \$2000 dollars between Christmas and Memorial Day! It takes virtually no effort on your part; other than to get up off the couch and go to dinner! Ask your friends who have been to the last two restaurants; it’s been fun! We try to pick locations that are unique and memorial. You enjoy a delicious dinner with good friends and provide a means of much needed support for your museum. If you haven’t participated yet; stand by, there will be some more opportunities real soon.

March 8, 2017 at 6:00pm starts a new chapter in the history of the de Witt Cottage as that will be the first meeting of the **de Witt Cottage Garden Club**. If you enjoy gardening then you will not want to miss this opportunity to garden by the sea! Please contact the Director at Email director@atwildfowl.org or call (757) 437-8432 if you are interested.

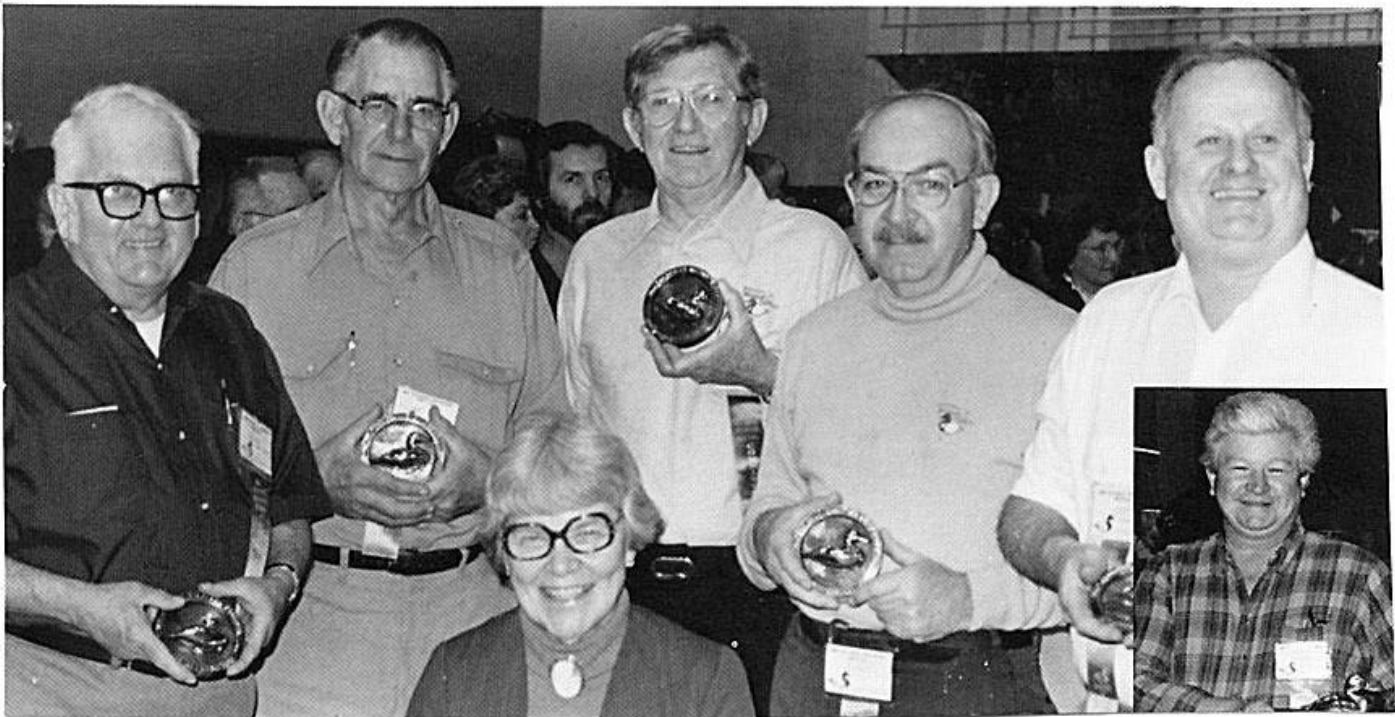
THROWBACK PHOTO OF THE MONTH

The seven people pictured below were the first Mid-Atlantic Wildfowl Festival volunteers to receive the Bronze Medallion Award. Awarded in 1983, it was the highest honor ever presented to an individual.



FIRST BRONZE MEDALLION WINNERS

Left to Right: Charles T. Creekman, Somers G. Headley, Thomas W. Land, John A. Johnson, Fletcher Bryant, William Veasey (Insert), Emma Meehan (Seated)



Diving ducks,

also called sea ducks, are typically birds of large, deep lakes and rivers, coastal bays and inlets. Their speculums lack the brilliance of those on most dabblers. Most patter along the water in taking wing. They all dive for food, whereas dabblers rarely dive. They also have a more rapid wingbeat than most dabblers.



About the Common Goldeneye

Breeding

Common goldeneyes breed across the forested areas of Canada, Minnesota, Michigan, Alaska and the northeastern United States. They are most abundant among lakes of the Canadian Boreal Forests, especially where lakes or deep marshes have substantial invertebrate populations. They are cavity nesters and have a strong homing tendency, often using the same cavity in successive years. Nests are usually located near a pond, lake or river, but may be found in woodlands up to a mile from water. Female common goldeneyes nest in natural tree cavities, abandoned woodpecker holes or nest boxes and lay an average of 9 eggs.

Latin: *Bucephala clangula americana*

Average length: M 19", F 17"

Average weight: M 2.3 lbs., F 1.7 lbs.

Description

The common goldeneye, like the Barrow's goldeneye, is named for its brilliant yellow iris. Common goldeneyes fly in small compact clusters, with their wings making a distinctive whistle at every wing beat. Male common goldeneyes have blackish iridescent green heads with a white circular patch between the eye and the base of the bill. The breast, sides, belly and patch across the secondaries and secondary wing coverts are white. The back, rump and upper tail coverts are black and the tail is grayish-brown. The bill is black and the legs and feet are yellowish. Female common goldeneyes have chocolate brown heads, a whitish neckband, and speckled gray back and sides. The upper wings are brownish-black with the middle five secondaries colored white. The bill is blackish, becoming yellow near the tip, and the legs and feet are yellowish.



Food Habits

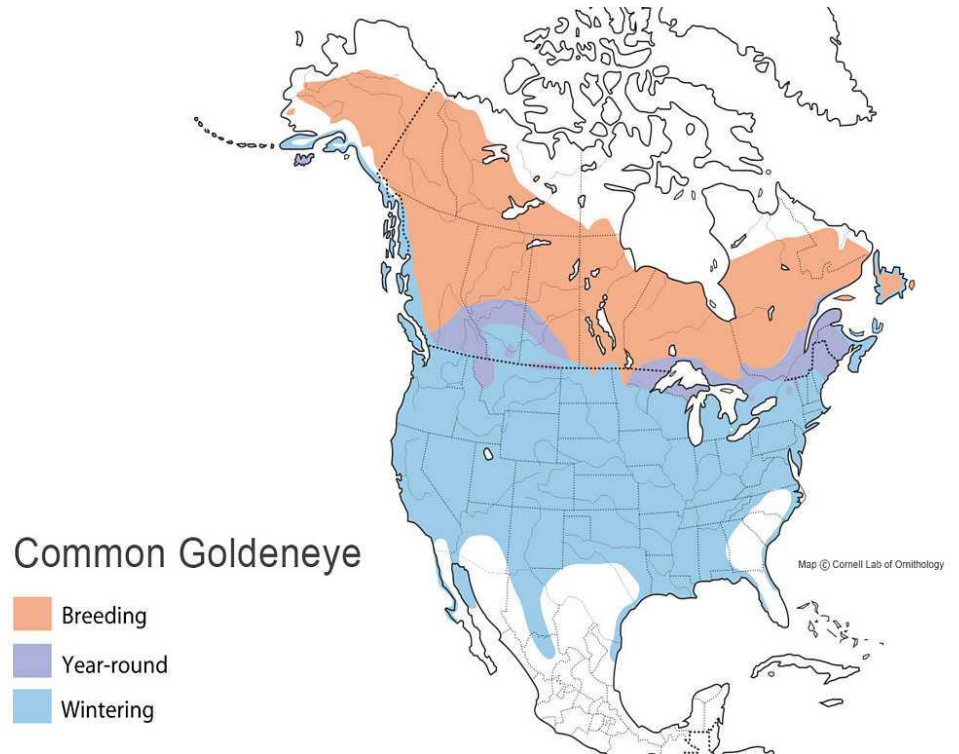
Common goldeneyes use brackish estuarine and saltwater bays and deep freshwater habitats in the winter and dive to feed on a wide variety of available animal life. In inland areas during the summer and fall, they feed on aquatic insects, crustaceans, and aquatic plants. Along coastal wintering grounds they feed largely on crustaceans, mollusks, small fishes and some plant material.

Population

Recent breeding population data are not available due to the difficulty of surveying birds in forested habitat, but estimates of the population have average 1.25 million birds (Bellrose, 1976). The wintering populations of the common goldeneyes along the Chesapeake Bay and in Maryland have been decreasing steadily since the 1980s.

Migrating and Wintering

Some may move from the interior to the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and south along the Mississippi and Snake rivers. Along the Atlantic coast, birds winter from Newfoundland to Florida and on the Pacific coast from the Aleutian Chain south to California. The St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes also provide wintering habitat.



Reprinted from Ducks Unlimited Website.

Diverse Entertainment

Frank DeJesus

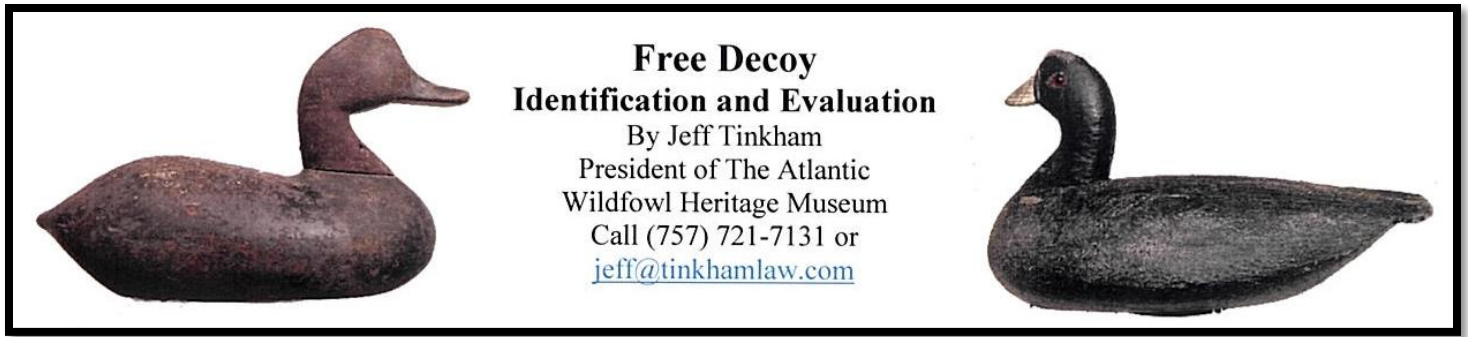
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Home: 546-5716
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We Specialize In
Music Of All Genres
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Hip Hop & Beach Music





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

DE WITT GARDEN CLUB FORMING

The charter meeting of the **de Witt Cottage Garden Club** will be Wednesday March 8, 2017 at 6:00pm. This will also be an opportunity to learn how to garden in a hostile sea salt environment from two Master Gardeners. If you enjoy gardening then you will not want to miss this opportunity to garden by the sea! Please contact the Director at Email director@atwildfowl.org or call (757) 437-8432 if you are interested.

COLLECTOR'S SHELF

This unique Back Bay decoy was made by James Rowe, who worked as a machinist in the local shipyards during the 1950s. The head was made out of aluminum and screwed to the wooden body. Consequently, none of his heads broke off from the bodies, which is a common problem inherent with wooden heads. The keel weight is also unique, as it was attached with a single screw so that it could pivot and be tightened into the proper location. Once the weight was adjusted and in place, the decoy was properly balanced to float in the water.

Jimmie made about 60 of these decoys, and they are popular with local collectors and coot lovers. The coot is also affectionately known as the blue peter or Knotts Island chicken.

For a free evaluation or identification of your decoys, contact Jeff Tinkham at 757-724-7131 or jeff@tinkhamlaw.com.



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

MUSEUM CARVERS

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

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Tuesday: Bob Bishop 1p-5p
Wednesday: Archie Johnson 10a-2p
Thursday Joe Leo 10a-2p
Friday: OPEN
Saturday: OPEN
Sunday: OPEN
Museum Grounds Nancy Lekberg

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 !

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, 2017 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!

