

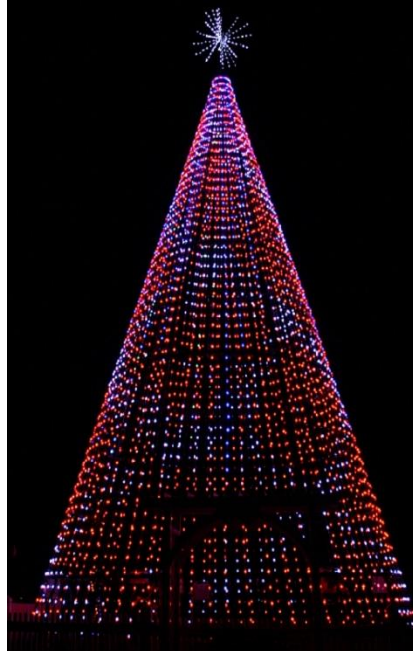
# THE WILDFOWLER

DECEMBER 2020

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

## ***New Attraction to Virginia Beach Boardwalk Mile of Lights***

### ***Giant Christmas Tree Next To deWitt Cottage***



100 Miles of Lights began in 1998 as a regional effort to promote holiday events and light shows from Richmond to Virginia Beach. The program began when there was still a light show at the fairgrounds in Richmond, which is approximately *100 miles* or so from Virginia Beach. Today, the effort provides a list of light shows and holiday events across the seven cities of Richmond, Williamsburg, Newport News, Hampton, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach.

Drive-through and walk-through light shows will dazzle and shine with more than two million lights, providing a colorful backdrop to the wide range of events and activities for the young and young-at-heart. Lighted boat parades, city illuminations, festivals, parades, living history re-enactments, caroling, dining events, music and dance are among the many activities occurring throughout the region from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day.



Take a magical journey on the Virginia Beach Boardwalk at BayPort Credit Union Holiday Lights at the Beach! This Hampton Roads tradition begins Friday, November 13 and continues nightly through January 3, 2021. Illumination begins at 5:30 pm each night and continues until 11 pm on Fridays and Saturdays; 10 pm from Sundays through Thursdays.

New this year, guests will be required to purchase tickets in advance, online through Eventbrite. Upon entry, tickets will be scanned on mobile devices, to limit person-to-person contact. Tickets will go on sale Thursday, October 15 at 10:00 a.m.

The Bayport Credit Union Holiday Lights at the Beach is the perfect socially-distanced event to attend during the 2020 holiday season! Guests drive their vehicles on the Virginia Beach Boardwalk through holiday, nautical, and adventure-themed light displays, listening on their radios to a soundtrack playing traditional holiday music. Festive fish, musical crabs, and hard-working elves – all in brightly colored lights against the moonlit Atlantic Ocean - are the stars of BayPort Credit Union Holiday Lights at the Beach. They are joined by Surfing Santa and a 40-foot tall dancing light Christmas tree, new for 2020! The magical light display features fish swimming overhead, color-changing archways, and light fixtures that pay tribute to the region's Armed Forces community.



At BayPort Credit Union, they know that 2020 has been a challenging year for many in our community. Now more than ever, they believe in the value of safe, fun, and family-friendly experiences this holiday season. That is why they are excited to be the presenting sponsor of this year's Holiday Lights at the Beach for the third straight year, according to President/CEO Jim Mears.

Families are encouraged to enjoy everything the Virginia Beach Resort features by Holiday-bundling BayPort Credit Union Holiday Lights at the Beach with dinner at one of the many fine restaurants or a visit to one of the exciting attractions at the Oceanfront. For information and special offers, visit Atlantic Avenue Association's website at [www.atlanticavevb.com](http://www.atlanticavevb.com).

BayPort Credit Union Holiday Lights at the Beach has been named one of the Southeast Tourism Society's "Top 20 November Events" and one of American Bus Association's "Top 100 Events in North America"! More than 20,000 families a year make this unique light show a part of their holiday celebration. This "Fanta-Sea" of lights will dazzle and amaze holiday visitors and locals alike.

The new Christmas Tree sits right next to the deWitt Cottage. It is just over 42 feet tall and contains five thousand LED lights. It replays programmed sequences of changing colored lights and patterns. It is brand new, and this is its first appearance in Holiday Lights at the Beach.





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

12/07, 14, 21, 28, 2020: de Witt Garden Club

10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

Bring your work gloves and tools

(No Meeting on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>)

No Board Meeting in December

01/04, 11, 18, 25, 2021: de Witt Garden Club

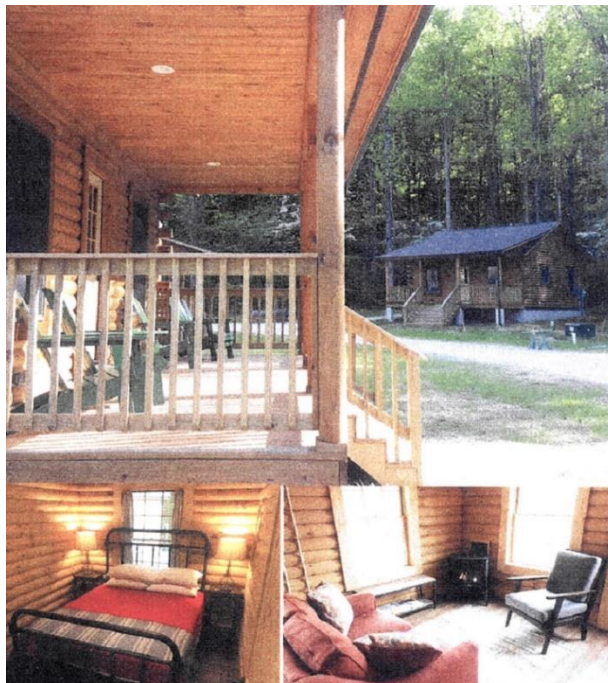
10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

Bring your work gloves and tools

01/19/2021: Board Meeting

7:00 pm Virtual



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# DECOYS WANTED

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COLLECTOR'S SHELF

## Earl Wayne “Bill Scripture (Born 1941 – Present)

Born in Florida, moved to South Carolina where he learned to Hunt and shoot at a young age. In the 1950's the family moved to Virginia Beach where Bill hunted waterfowl on Back Bay.

During high school at Princess Anne H.S., he was an outstanding baseball player. Upon graduation he attended Wake Forest University where he was an All-American player. After college he was signed by the Baltimore Orioles and played for their triple A minor league team and later traded to the Mets. He also played for the Norfolk Tides.

In the off-season Scripture took a job as a hunting guide at Bay Haven Farms in Back Bay, owned by Harold Grimstead. Bill was the most requested guide and hunted along with his black lab Mickey. He stated and wrote on the bottom of decoys that Mickey was the greatest gun dog I ever saw.



During baseball season while traveling Bill would carve decoys for the upcoming season. In the 1980's Bill went back to the name Earl. He won four Virginia State Championships and was elected to the Trapshooting Hall of Fame. His motto was “Shoot to win – There is no second place ever!” In 2007 Scripture retired with his wife in Columbia, North Carolina where he enjoys his time carving decoys.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members and friends of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum,

What a year?! This hasn't been the 125th anniversary we all had envisioned for our beloved de Witt cottage. Since March, we have all made necessary adjustments to our everyday lives and operations to remain safe and mitigate the spread of the virus.

Even with the challenges presented by the virus, the guild and cottage have still continued to move forward. Through your support and generosity, we have stayed connected, stayed active, and stayed focused.

- Stayed connected through Zoom meetings with our BOD and membership, a re-designed website, and the addition of [thedewittcottage.org](http://thedewittcottage.org) website, focused on special events and other reservations.
- Stayed active through our vibrant exhibits, hosting our third annual friend and fundraising gallery opening event, growth and improvement of our award winning grounds and de Witt Garden Club, and unwavering commitment and partnerships with the City of Virginia Beach and other local nonprofits for opportunities like our *A Salute to Heroes Wedding Venue Giveaway*.
- Stayed focused through identifying areas for potential expansion and revenue, updates to our beloved cottage and exhibits, growth of our membership and BOD, and stabilization of our operational finances.

While we continue to make great strides, much is left to be done. Your financial contributions are the driving force in our continued success. AWHM relies heavily on the generosity of our members. As 2020 thankfully comes to a close, I hope that you will consider making a contribution to our wonderful museum. Your gift, small or large, will have a lasting impact.

We have several ways for you to make your **tax-deductible** gift:

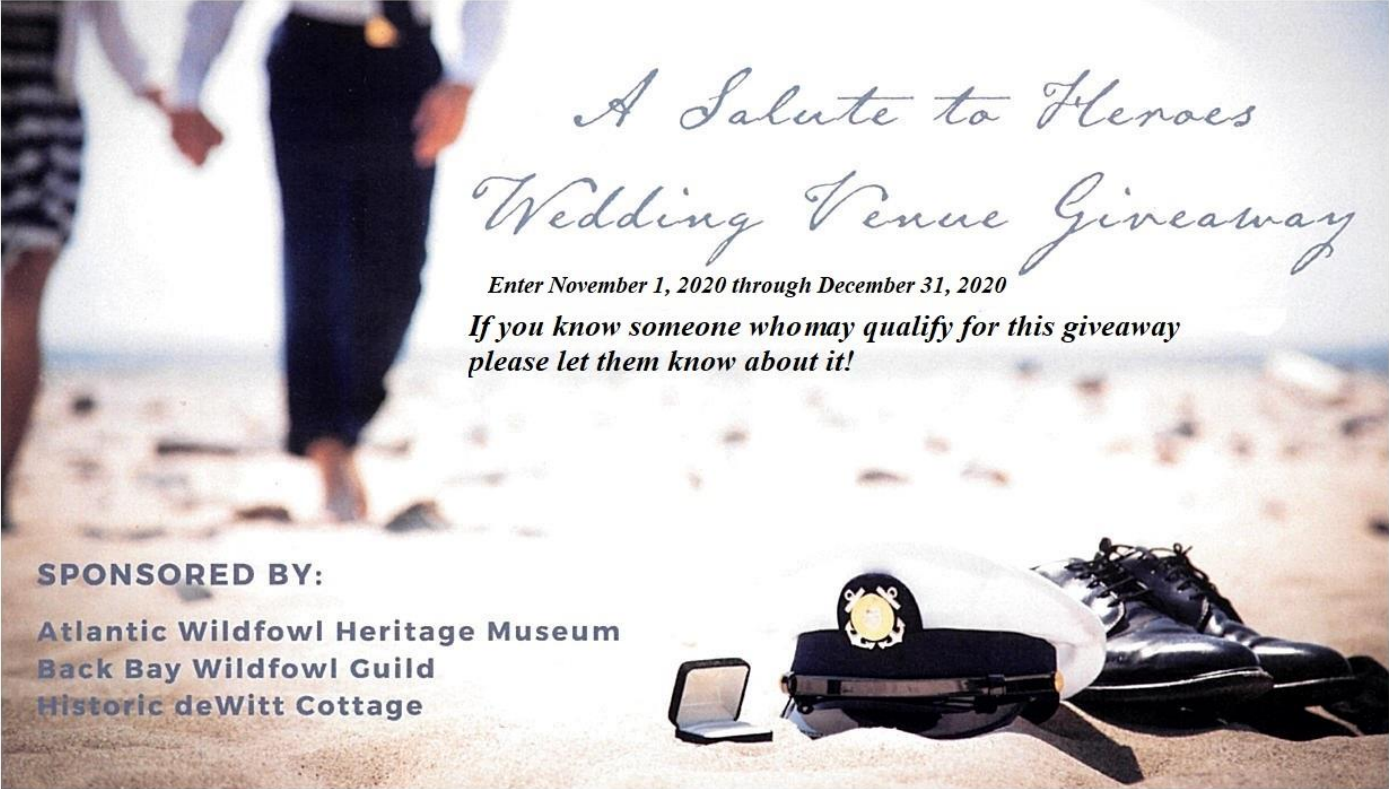
- **Check:** Please make checks payable to, Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum or AWHM and mail to 1113 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451.
- **Credit/Debit Card:** You may make your gift using a VISA or MasterCard. Please contact us at 757-437-8432 or online at [www.awhm.org/donate](http://www.awhm.org/donate).
- **Recurring:** Your pledge may also be made as a sustaining monthly gift should you choose that option.

As always, I thank you for your time, your generosity, and your continued support! I send my most heartfelt holiday cheer and warmest wishes to each of you during this anxious but still wonderful time of year. As always, we have much to be thankful for.

Cheers,  
Jason Seward  
President







# *A Salute to Heroes Wedding Venue Giveaway*

*Enter November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020*

*If you know someone who may qualify for this giveaway  
please let them know about it!*

## **SPONSORED BY:**

**Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum  
Back Bay Wildfowl Guild  
Historic deWitt Cottage**



**Who can Enter:** A bride-to-be or groom-to-be currently employed as a nurse, firefighter, emergency medical technician, law enforcement officer or active duty US military, either working or living in Virginia Beach, can submit or have submitted on their behalf a written entry about their hero status and how they are deserving of this award.

**Award:** Award includes waiver of rental fee and day of event access to the Historic de Witt Cottage buildings and grounds from 10:00 am-10:00 pm ONLY. A total of 5 wedding dates will be awarded to be scheduled during the months of March-December 2021. Events to be held at the Historic de Witt Cottage (circa 1895) located at 1113 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

**Selection:** Beginning January 1, 2021, a panel of 5 judges will review the entries and select 5 mutually agreed upon winners based on a variety of factors including but not limited to occupation and couple's "Hero" story.


**Only 1 entry per person, per email address, and per household will be considered.**

Go to [www.thedewittcottage.org/SalutetoHeroes](http://www.thedewittcottage.org/SalutetoHeroes) to enter  
Entrants must provide contact information and submit hero story.

Winners will be notified **02.01.2021** via phone & email.  
We will also announce the winners on our social media and websites.








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By Jeff Tinkham  
Past President of The Atlantic  
Wildfowl Heritage Museum  
Call (757) 724-7131 or  
[jeff@tinkhamlaw.com](mailto:jeff@tinkhamlaw.com)



**Does this look like Spring? Well, Its not! It's December 1, 2020 and this is just some of the Fall color your Garden Club has added to the deWitt Cottage Garden.**



Thank You to



For their fabulous  
donations!



**Thank You Martha Davenport  
and Tom and Jacky Richards**



## 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

*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 January 1, 2021, Membership cards will have an expiration date. Each member will receive an invoice from the museum director requesting payment of their annual dues after the expiration date. Memberships run for 12 consecutive months from the date annual dues are paid.*

### 2020 & 2021 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!***

