

THE WILDFOWLER

NOVEMBER 2020

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

Back Bay Wildfowl Guild

Salute to Heroes

By Martha Davenport

What is a Hero?

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “Hero” as: a. mythological or legendary figure often of divine descent endowed with great strength or ability b: an illustrious warrior c: a person admired for achievements and noble qualities d: one who shows great courage.

Thinking back as a child, your hero may have been a comic book character, favorite sports personality, or movie actor. As we grow older, our heroes change as our perspective does. Heroes can be someone who participated in great military battles, fought for their beliefs and convictions, or those closest to us.



In 2020 with COVID-19, our idea of heroes changes again, and we think of the daily heroes; those that make a great impact on the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Virginia Beach. We are speaking to the Nurse, Emergency Medical Technician, Police Officer/Sheriff, Fire Fighter, and those serving in our Military. The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum and the historic de Witt Cottage (circa 1895) are saluting these daily heroes who continue to protect our community through this pandemic. One lucky bride or groom will be selected from each profession to have their wedding at the historic de Witt Cottage. A total of 5 dates will be awarded for 2021. The rental fee will be waived. Terms and Conditions apply.

On November 1, 2020, we will begin accepting entries from those who are currently employed in each of these professions working or living in Virginia Beach. Entries will close on December 31, 2020 at 11:59 pm. A total of 5 winners from the entries will be selected by a panel of judges.

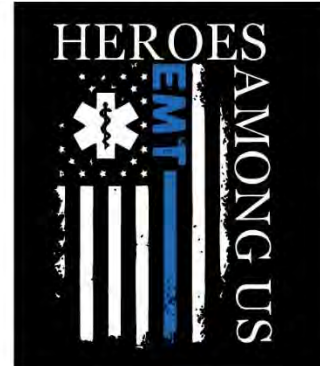




Winners will be notified on February 1, 2021. We want to recognize these hardworking and deserving individuals. They are our heroes. Every day they do their job of saving lives, protecting people from harm, keeping our community and nation safe and secure. So, in 100 words or less, we ask them to tell us about themselves and how they are most deserving of this award. Submittal must be 100 words or less. Go to www.thedewittcottage.org to enter and for more information. No purchase or monetary commitment necessary.

In final, we believe that the Hollands and the de Witts (original owners) would be proud to provide their beloved Cottage to these heroes. Each family was instrumental

in the development of Virginia Beach and led the path as to what our community is today. Now it is our turn to carry the torch and follow their example. We look forward to opening our doors to these special individuals and wish everyone the best of luck.



Upcoming Guild Events:

11/02, 09, 16, 23, 30/2020: de Witt Garden Club
10:00 am, at the museum
Meets every Monday
Bring your work gloves and tools

11/17/2020: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

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

12/15/2020: 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.

COLLECTOR'S SHELF

Robert "Bob" N. Morse (Feb. 4, 1881 – Dec. 6, 1971 Ruddy Duck "Rare"

Born in Duck, N.C. at an early age he became a waterman. His interests included hunting and fishing for the market and building boats.

Around the turn of the century Bob moved to Waterlily, NC. He then married and had nine children. Every Sunday the Morse family traveled back to Duck for church services.

Bob made decoys for market hunters to outfit their sinkbox rigs. Decoys were in high demand by hunters and hunt clubs. Bob Morse decoys were very popular because the buyers liked the large, thick bodies. The decoys also had small chip tails and rounded breasts. The heads were sanded smooth on the classic Churches Island decoys.

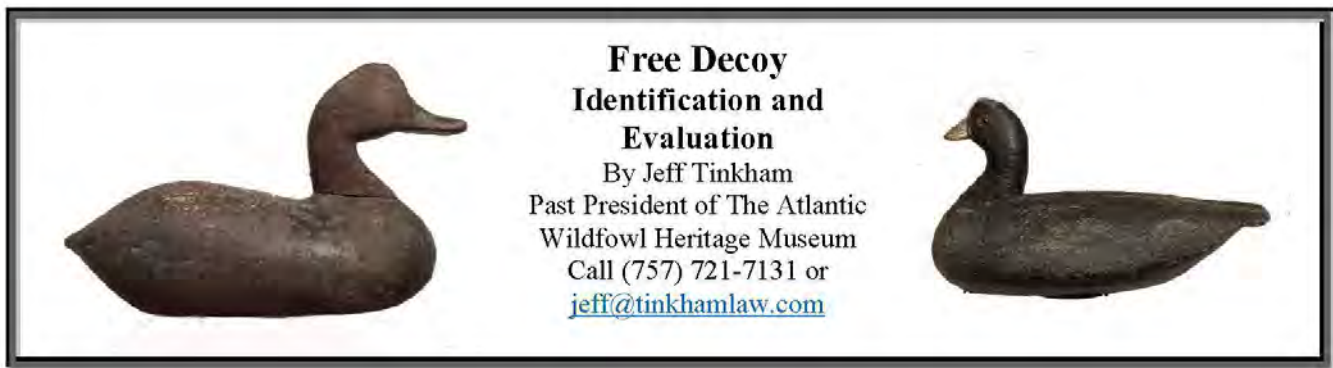


MUSEUM HOURS HAVE CHANGED

**AFTER THURSDAY OCTOBER 1, 2020 THE ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM
WILL ONLY BE OPEN ON FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 10:00AM THROUGH 5:00PM
UNTIL SUNDAY MAY 30, 2021.**

**PRIVATE TOURS CAN BE ARRANGED AT ANYTIME BY
CONTACTING THE DIRECTOR, AT director@atwildfowl.org.**





House passes America's Conservation Enhancement Act

The U.S. House of Representative passed the [America's Conservation Enhancement Act \(S. 3051\)](#), which includes reauthorization for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and funding to combat invasive species, last week. The package of conservation measures, which was previously passed by the Senate, now goes to the president for his signature.

The America's Conservation Enhancement Act includes several conservation provisions that leverage public and private funding to advance conservation. The bill reauthorizes the [North American Wetlands Conservation Act](#), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Chesapeake Bay Program. Under the bill, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), which has helped conserve more than 30 million acres of wetlands by leveraging a 3-to-1 match of private to federal funds, would increase its authorized level to \$60 million annually for the next five years. In recent years, NAWCA has received around \$45 million in funding each year from Congress.

Alongside these reauthorizations, the bill would establish a new chronic wasting disease coordinating task force and help ensure states have a coordinated plan to research, test and respond to CWD. It would also provide \$5 million annually, split between the departments of the Interior and Agriculture, for the next five years to combat invasive species.



In addition, the bill would set up an advisory board to develop a new award for reducing human-predator conflict. These prizes were first developed last year, after being included in a package of bills focused on public lands and conservation.

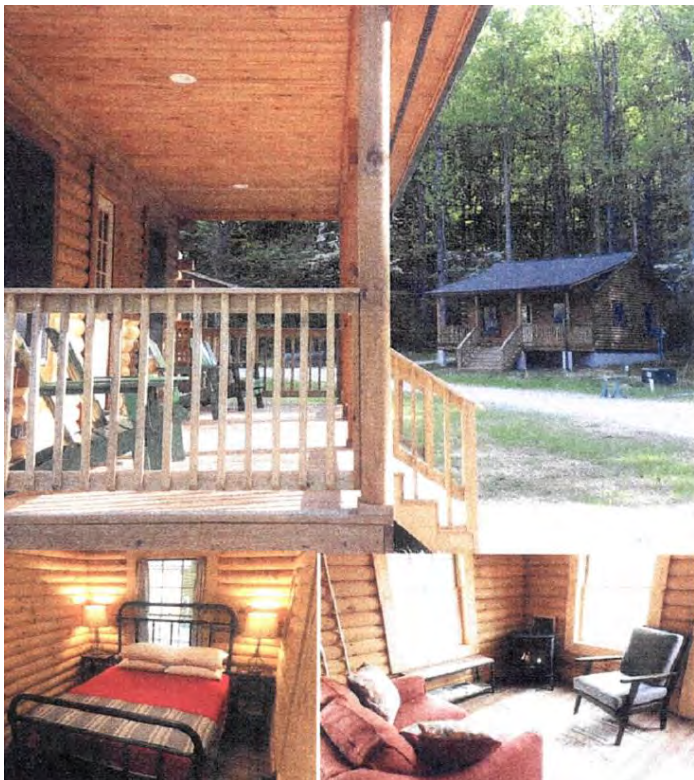
“The ‘America’s Conservation Enhancement Act’ is important legislation that reauthorizes key conservation programs such as the North American Wetlands Conservation Act,” said Caroline Murphy, AWB®, government relations manager at The Wildlife Society. “This bill also provides resources and support to wildlife professionals to help address invasive species and wildlife diseases — key natural resource management challenges.”

Under one controversial provision, the Environmental Protection Agency is prevented from regulating lead in fishing tackle, under the Toxic Substances Control Act, for the next five years. Lead in ammunition is also exempt from regulation under TSCA. Lead is not permitted for use in waterfowl hunting, and regarding lead in recent years.

The legislation was first introduced by the chair and ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Sens. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Tom Carper (D-Del.) in Dec. 2019. [In June](#), The Wildlife Society and partners reached out to lawmakers to encourage passage of the ACE Act.



Laura Bies is a government relations contractor and freelance writer for The Wildlife Society. She has a B.S. in Environmental Science and a law degree from George Washington University. Laura has worked with The Wildlife Society since 2005. [Read more of Laura's articles.](#)



Close to everywhere you want to be!

Four fully-appointed, 2 bedroom, 1 bath log cabins.
Located 0.8 miles from Devils Backbone and 3.5
miles from the entrance to Wintergreen Ski Resort.
5 miles from mile marker 13 on the Blue Ridge
Parkway and the Appalachian Trail.

WWW.BEECHGROVECABINS.COM

97 Stars Hollow
Roseland, VA 22967
off of Rte 151 in Nelson County

Reserve your getaway cabin today!
Your hosts, Bill and Becky Evans



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I trust everyone had a wonderful and warm Halloween.. For me, November is the start to one of my favorite times of the year. It is a time for us to reflect and celebrate all we have in our lives to be thankful for.

Gazebo Project: We are pleased to announce the acquisition of Jim Sykes Custom Homes as our contractor for the construction of a gazebo on the deWitt Cottage property. Jim is a lifelong Virginia Beach Resident (graduate of Kempsville High School) and a strong supporter of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. He is probably the best custom home builder in Hampton Roads. If all goes well with the permitting process we should be able to start construction in March 2021.

Museum Financial Position: Thanks to the hard work of your Board of Directors the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum is now well positioned to survive the historic Coronavirus of 2019-2020. We look forward to educating, informing, and entertaining area residents and visitors for another 25 years. While we were not able to celebrate our 25th Anniversary of the museum, the 45th Anniversary of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild and the 125th Anniversary of the deWitt Cottage, we will look forward to having a giant celebration once everyone has been vaccinated and our lives return to normal.

Covid Safety for Museum: The museum is well positioned for Covid-19 safety and hygiene. We have installed four (4) touchless hand sanitizer units to safely sanitize your hands. Under the Virginia Governor's; Orders masks are required in the museum and we have plenty of them for sale. We also have 70% alcohol hand sanitizer in 2 oz. bottles with the deWitt Cottage Label on them for sale. We require social distancing, and the museum receives a thorough wipe down with industrial Sanitizer twice a week. I believe it is safe for you to visit!

Salute to Heroes: begins November 1, 2020 and runs through December 31, 2020. This promotion is designed to recognize our everyday heroes who have been so vital to our well being during this historic and unprecedented pandemic. We will award 5 wedding events at the deWitt Cottage to 5 lucky local everyday heroes. They will be selected by a panel of independent judges from the following categories: Law Enforcement, Military, Firefighter, Nurse, and Emergency Medical Technician. You can read more about this wonderful offer at: <https://thedewittcottage.org/>

The following museum projects have been completed or planned to be completed by March of 2021

1. New Chair Lift installed
2. Gift Shop Floor Replacement
3. New Restroom additions
4. White Pickett Fence Replacement
5. Interior Paint for Museum

Museum Strategic Plan: While we have not been meeting in person, we have continued to have productive Board Meetings Virtually. The Director, Activities Coordinator, and your Board of Directors are working hard to develop a strategic plan that will insure a strong, stable, and prosperous museum well into the future. The plan will contain goals and objectives that support our mission statement and budget philosophy. We will be updating this plan and announcing it very soon.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving.

Cheers.
Jason W. Seward



FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Interior Re-Design of Museum: We are relocating the volunteer carvers from the carvers room into the main parlor (former giftshop) where they will have more exposure to the visitors of the museum. We are also creating a “Consignment Shop” around them for members and local artists to sell their beautiful, handcrafted works of art. We will be highlighting some of these items on our social media pages.

Membership renewals have changed in the way they will be calculated in the future. Under our old plan memberships ran from January 1st thru December 31st. As of January 1, 2020 memberships will be for 12 consecutive months from the date the membership was paid. Membership cards will now be issued with an expiration date on them so you know when your membership runs out. This type of membership accounting makes it easier to recruit new members in the last quarter of any calendar year. No matter when you join your paid membership will run for 12 consecutive months.

Museum hours have changed to Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 10:00am to 5:00pm. Anyone can setup a private tour any other time of the week simply by contacting me at director@atwildfowl.org. Have a great Thanksgiving Holiday.

Lynn Hightower

Maggie



Maggie is a French Bulldog who is lucky enough to have Larry and Martha Davenport as her parents.

Name: Maggie Penelope

Answers to: Maggie, Mags, Pumpkin

Born: July 2008 Columbus, Ohio

Currently resides: Croatan Beach, Virginia Beach

Mom & Dad: Martha and Larry Davenport

Likes: Long walks, car rides, treats and photo ops

Favorite Exercise: Chasing lizards and squirrels

Favorite Food: Fresh green beans or GBs as a treat

Apple of Mom and Dad's eye.



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 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!

