

THE WILDFOWLER

JANUARY 2021

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

Back Bay Wildfowl Memories Where are they now?

HERB AND ANNE VERHAAGEN

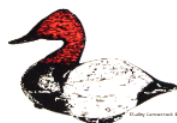
Herb and Ann Verhaagen are longtime members of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild. Both of them have served as president of the Board of Directors for the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. Their tenure as president was lengthy in both cases, Herb served as president for about four years and then Ann followed him with a term of five years. (2005-2014) They were both significant contributors to the Mid-Atlantic Wildfowl Festival, which was produced by the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild from 1976 through 2007. Their leadership helped hold the Guild together when the wildfowl festival was fading away. They have been married 58 years!

I am frequently asked by the members in our organization, how Herb and Anne Verhaagen are doing. I usually



have to answer, “I don't know? I haven't heard from them in a very long time.” I have tried on a number of occasions to call them. The phone would ring and ring. Eventually, I would get Ann's very upbeat telephone answering machine message. “Hello, you terrifically wonderful person”, so I would leave a message: but, no one ever called back. When I had to make a trip down Shore Drive into Norfolk and I would pass by the Verhaagen's neighborhood; I would always stop by hoping to catch them at home. But, no one ever came to the door. I reached out to their son, David, who lives in Tennessee. He was able to catch me up on some of the things that had been happening with Herb and Ann and provided this picture. He said that both of them had some medical setbacks over the past two years that pretty much keep them confined to the house. He encouraged me to continue to try and contact them. He added that his brother, Brian, goes by the house regularly to check on them and help them with any demanding tasks.

So I made up my mind to find them both. This past Wednesday I went by the house again. I did knock on the doors and ring the door bells: still no one came to the door. Undeterred, I walked around the house and knocked on windows until I got Ann's attention. She came and met me at the door to let me in. She is just as beautiful as she ever was with a big full face smile. She walked me back to see Herbie, as she calls him. Herb has suffered some strokes that have confined him to bed most of the time. He is receiving professional nursing care daily. The strokes have affected some of his cognitive function according to Ann; but, on Wednesday he was doing well and greeted me with a great big smile. We all talked about the guild and the members they miss as well as all of the members we have lost in 2020. If you would like to contact Ann and Herb you can reach them via email at ann.verhaagen@cox.net.





Upcoming Guild Events:

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

02/02/2021 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Virtual
Program: Show & Tell

02/16/2021: Board Meeting
7:00 pm Virtual

05/04/2021 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm
Lucky Oyster Celebration

Save these Dates

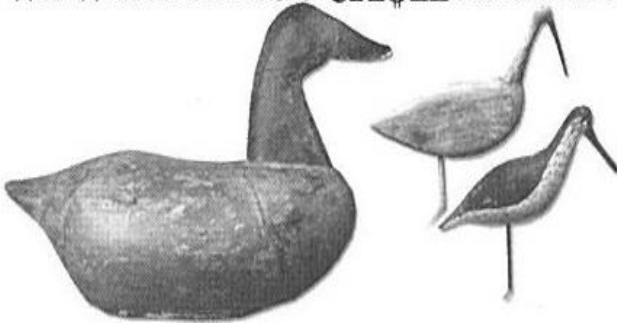
Lucky Oyster May 4, 2021



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

By Mark Cromwell

James L. Rowe "Jimmy" – Coot with metal head



Jimmy grew up on Back Bay & Knotts Island area. He kept his boat at Bay Haven Marina – Harold Grimstead landing.

Jimmy was a machinist at the shipyard in Norfolk.

Jimmy used a metal lathe to make his aluminum coot heads. He was a skilled metal worker and his aluminum heads were very life like.

Jimmy attached the coot heads to wooden bodies with brass screws and he also attached his lead weights to the bottoms of the coot decoys with screws loose enough to swivel back & forth.

He also branded his name in the bottom of the decoys J L ROWE.

The value of Jimmy's coots is approximately \$400. - \$600.



FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR



I don't know about the rest of you; but, I have never been so glad to see a year come to an end. Good riddance! Scram! Take a powder. Don't let the door hit you where the dog bit you. In fact, we don't just want to say it. We want to do something about it. What's needed is an exorcism, a thorough cleansing, literally, because of Coronavirus. We would all like to punch 2020 right in the nose!

Some years pass like a beloved family member, leaving cherished memories behind. Others are more like a hated houseguest — one that constantly raids the icebox, smokes in the bedroom, wrecks the family car, and tells inappropriate jokes to the children. We don't just want them out of the house. We want to fumigate it afterwards. Fires, floods, hurricanes, politics gone haywire, a deadly pandemic: it hasn't been dull. We need some potent magic to make sure 2020 goes away and never comes back.

When I accepted the position of director 4 1/2 years ago with the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, I did so because of the love I have for wildfowl, wildfowling arts, carving and the people in this organization. None of that has changed for me in 2020. So looking to the future, we must, we will, and we can be successful at preserving the deWitt Cottage and the history of wildfowling and the wildfowling arts in our community.

We have been fortunate to be able to have the opportunity to prop up our organization up (financially) because of government programs and grants. This will not be a sustainable strategy as we go forward. As a nonprofit organization we must depend on a business model that is sustainable without these programs. Our plan calls for a re-design of our on premise gift shop, expansion of our online gift shop and promotion of the deWitt Cottage property as an event venue. We believe our plan is solid and sustainable.

Each of you, that receive this newsletter, is on this mailing list because of the support that you have given to the museum and the Guild over the past several years. All nonprofit organizations rely on the generosity of the members, visitors, customers and others who help to support the organization. Without your support, none of what we have accomplished over the past 25 years would have been possible. Thank you for your support and Happy New Year 2021!

	<p>Free Decoy Identification and Evaluation By Jeff Tinkham Past President of The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum Call (757) 724-7131 or jeff@tinkhamlaw.com</p>	
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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

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!

