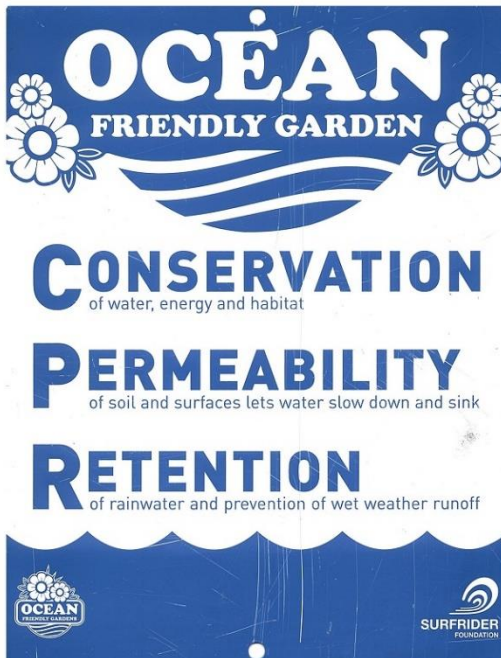


THE WILDFOWLER

AUGUST 2021

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

*It's Official! We are an
Ocean Friendly Garden!*



The deWitt Cottage Garden Club has been hard at work and their efforts are paying some big dividends. In July 2021 we were recognized by The Surfrider Foundation as an Ocean Friendly Garden. So what exactly does it mean to be an ocean friendly garden?

Ocean Friendly Gardens is Surfrider's sustainable landscaping and education program that provides beautiful, inexpensive and natural solutions to the problems caused by stormwater and urban runoff. Local Chapters use this program to make the connection between how we care for our yards and public spaces and the health of our local waterways and beaches.

Polluted runoff is the #1 cause of beach closures and swim advisories! Stormwater and urban runoff pollute beaches and coastal waterways with bacteria, road dust and oil, agricultural and landscaping chemicals, trash, and other debris and waste. Severe flooding during rain events can also cause sewage infrastructure

failures, making recreational waters unsafe for human contact. Inadequate wastewater treatment and traditional landscaping practices that depend on chemicals are also wreaking havoc on coastal and fresh water ecosystems by overloading waterways with nutrients, fueling toxic algae blooms and harming coral reef habitat. Lawns are also big water wasters. Over 7 billion gallons of drinkable, freshwater is used for landscape irrigation every year in the US, and almost half is wasted and becomes runoff!

Ocean Friendly Gardens (OFGs) apply CPR to revive healthy watersheds and protect clean water.

- **Conservation.** Reduce outdoor water demand & provide wildlife habitat
- **Permeability.** Build healthy, living soil to sponge up water and filter out pollutants
- **Retention.** Store rainwater in the landscape to rehydrate watersheds and local water supplies Whether you live inland or at the beach, your yard is a mini-watershed to apply CPR to protect clean water. We all live upstream of the ocean!

For more information: <https://vb.surfrider.org/programs/ofg/> or email ofg@virginia.surfrider.org.





YOU DID IT AGAIN! THREE YEARS IN A ROW!

A big thank you to our members and followers who voted us Best Museum (Science and Nature), a Bronze Award. This is no small feat. More than 100,000 votes were cast during Coastal Virginia Magazine's Readers Best of Contest. Thank you so much.

	<p>Free Decoy Identification and Evaluation By Jeff Tinkham Past President of The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum Call (757) 721-7131 or jeff@tinkhamlaw.com</p>	
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Upcoming Guild Events:

08/02, 09, 16, 23, 30 /2021: de Witt Garden Club
10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

Bring your work gloves and tools

08/17/2021: Board Meeting

6:30 pm at de Witt Cottage

09/06/2021: Labor Day

09/07/2021 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social at 6:00pm
Program to be announced

09/13, 20, 27/2021: de Witt Garden Club
10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

No meeting Monday September 6th

9/21/2021 Event Venue Open House

Tours for Event Vendors

3:00pm-5:00pm

09/28/2021: Board Meeting

6:30 pm at de Witt Cottage

-Sunday 10/17/2021 AWHM Fall Barbeque & Oyster Roast

de Witt Cottage 1113 Atlantic Avenue

1:00pm until 6:00pm

Save these Dates

11/19/21 - Gingerbread House Exhibit - Preview Party

11/20/21 - 12/18/21 - Gingerbread House Exhibit open to the public

12/07/2021 Christmas Party

12/11/21 - Photos with Santa & the Red Truck,
and Holiday Craft Fair - Time: TBA



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends of the AWHM,

I hope my note finds you healthy and happy as we quickly move through the "Duck Days of Summer". It has been a busy summer at the de Witt and we have a busy fall ahead as well.

First, we have seen an encouraging summer at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. Visitors throughout the summer have been constant, with many first-timers, both locals and "out of towners". As I have shared before, we cannot afford to remain a hidden secret. We must gain exposure through any means necessary. My thanks to Lynn for carrying our torch. He remains active in various networking groups throughout Hampton Roads, telling our story and bringing folks to the cottage. In addition, our new partnership with Create/Captivate, who manages our social media accounts, is having a tremendous impact on new opportunities. The content they are sharing with the world is of the highest quality and provides folks with an intimate look into the AWHM.

I again would like to give thanks and PRAISE to Jacky Richards and Martha Davenport for their time, dedication, and leadership in establishing our beautiful gardens, making the de Witt the most beautiful property at the oceanfront. Their hard work has gained us countless recognitions to include most recently a designation as an Ocean Friendly Garden by the Surfrider Foundation. Our gardens are a premiere attraction, and their sweat equity has paid incredible dividends. My thanks also to Tom Richards and Larry Davenport, our lead weed pulling team.

In addition to Martha's focus outside, her work establishing us as a premiere venue for special events is to be commended. With two high profile weddings taking place this month, our calendar is quickly filling up with folks wanting to capture that "de Witt magic" for their events. To enhance opportunities even further, our new gazebo project is close to beginning. While we had anticipated ground breaking to take place right after Labor Day, we have been delayed a bit while we continue to work to meet changing requests of the City and Historical Review Board. The bottom line is that we are close to beginning construction. My deepest appreciation goes to Jim Briggs for his time, gifts, and dedication to this much anticipated addition. The addition of the gazebo will enhance our marketability.

Get your tickets now for the return of our annual oyster roast. This year's event will take place Sunday, October 17th. Spend a beautiful fall day in the gardens, dancing to the music of the Tiki Bar Band, enjoying local wine, beer, BBQ, and Eastern Shore Sewansecott oysters! Contact Lynn to get your tickets. Bring your family, friends, colleagues, and enemies. This is a major fundraiser for our organization and its success depends on you. I'll see you there!

Cheers.
Jason Seward



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

Wallace O'Neal, Sr. 1867-1955

Born in Barco, Currituck County, North Carolina

As a young man Wallace lived in Duck, NC and after he married he and his new wife moved to Corolla.

In the early 1900's Wallace was a market hunter in the Currituck Sound and around the lighthouse. He owned four licensed blinds and moved back to the Currituck mainland and hunted the same areas where he took his boat across the sound. He was also a commercial fisherman in the waters of Corolla.

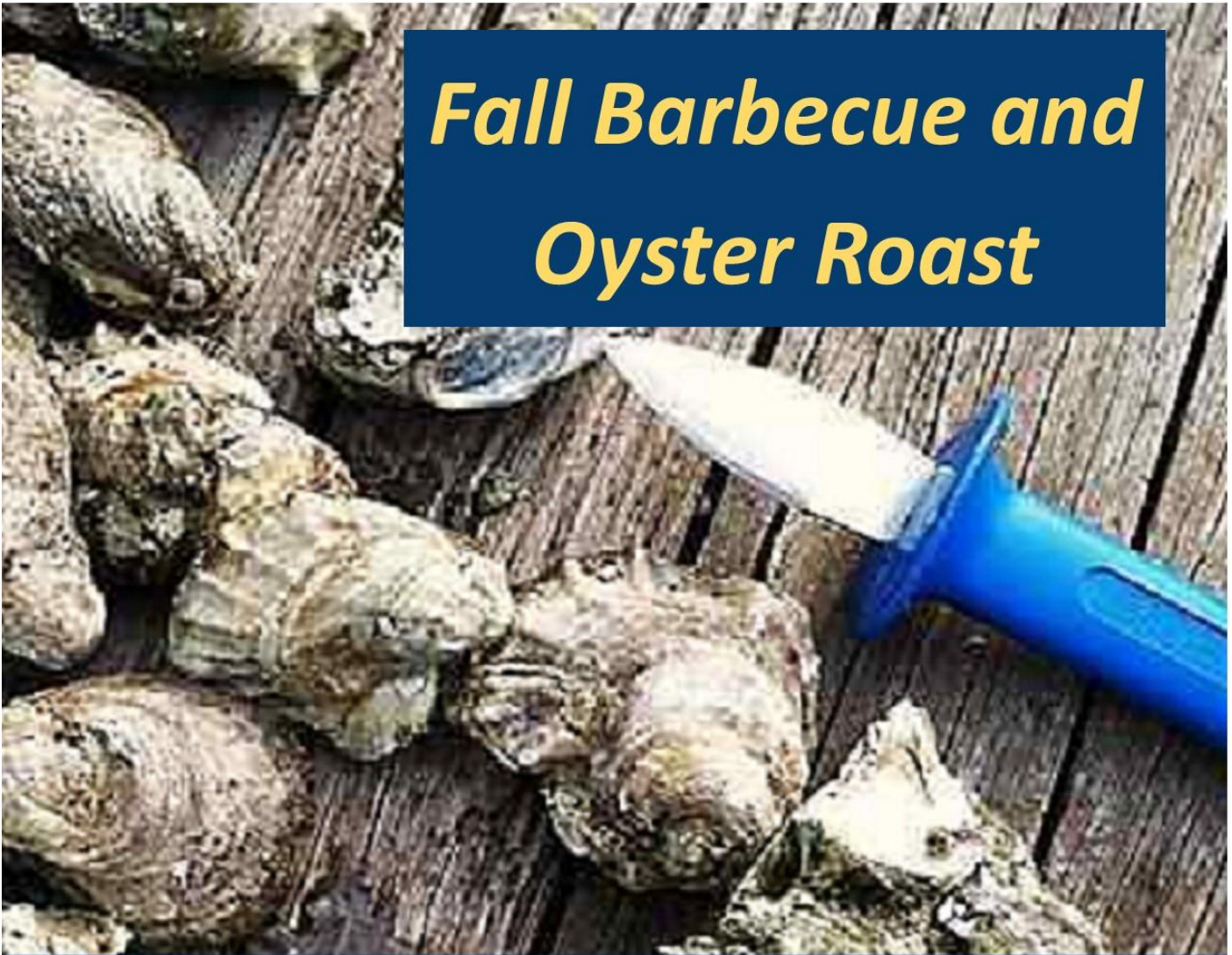


O'Neal's decoy stand consisted of over 500 wooden ducks and 30-40 canvas geese & swans. Included in his stand were decoys by John & Pell Austin and also decoys from the Lewark family. He was also known as a great shot & possibly the best boat handler in the Currituck Sound. Wallace's early decoys consisted of canvasbacks & redheads. Later in life he made puddle duck decoys.

Pictured is a Wallace O'Neal Hen Bluebill from the early 1900's; he never cleaned his brushes; but threw them away when they became too stiff.

For a free evaluation or identification of your decoys, contact Mark Cromwell at (757) 721-2746



A close-up photograph of several oysters resting on a weathered wooden plank. A blue-handled oyster knife is positioned to the right, its blade pointed towards the oysters. The oysters have a rough, textured shell with various shades of brown and grey.

Fall Barbecue and Oyster Roast

***Sunday, October 17, 2021
From 1:00pm until 6:00pm
deWitt Cottage
1113 Atlantic Avenue***



FEATURED PRODUCTS FROM DE WITT COTTAGE GIFT SHOP



CERAMIC CARDINAL TILE

6x6 inch tile is \$14.00

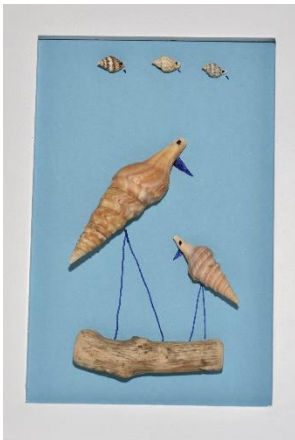
4x4 inch tile is \$8.00

2.5x2.5 inch tile Magnet \$5.00

Several other designs to choose from

SHELL BOXES \$10.00

Several other designs to choose from. 3x3 inch boxes 1.5 inches deep made of authentic recycled sea shells.



SEA GLASS AND SEASHELL ART BY BARBARA LEO

\$10.00 each Lots of designs to available

Your support and generosity are always appreciated!



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

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 yet paid your 2021 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

2021 DUES

\$35/YR INDIVIDUAL

\$100/YR BRONZE

\$500/YR GOLD

\$50/FAMILY

\$200/YR SILVER

\$1,000/YR PRESIDENTS CIRCLE



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD 2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____ AMOUNT PAID _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ [CELL] _____

January 1, 2021 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!

