

THE WILDFOWLER

OCTOBER 2021

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

Back Bay Wildfowl Memories

Last Mid-Atlantic Waterfowl Festival

By Mary Reid Barrow, Virginia Beach Beacon, October 2, 2007

Back Bay was once known as a hunter's paradise because so many ducks and geese wintered on its food-rich waters. The birds flew so thick that sportsmen could use what was known as a punt gun and drop several hundred birds with only one shot. Today, those times are memories. Back Bay is still a place where waterfowl spend the winter, but the numbers are limited, hunting restrictions are stiff and much of the area is protected by Back Bay and Mackay Island National Wildlife refuges. The Back Bay Wildfowl Guild works to make sure the memories don't fade. Members operate the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum on Atlantic Avenue.

Next weekend, the waterfowl guild will sponsor the 28th Virginia Beach Wildlife Festival, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Law Enforcement Training Academy (former Seatack Elementary School) off Birdneck Road. At the festival, the guild's best carvers, and about 50 from other places, will display and sell their duck hunting decoys, along with waterfowl art and other crafts.



The decoy, hand-carved by locals and used to lure birds within range of hunters, has become a symbol of the good old days. Now, instead of using decoys for hunting, many folks collect the wooden birds, both antique and new, and also carve them as a hobby. One such carver is guild member Gentry Childress, pictured above, a supporter of the wildfowl museum and organizer of the show. Childress, a retired schoolteacher, became involved in the guild when he moved here a decade ago. Already a carver, Childress refined his style by taking lessons from Charlie Seidel, the resident carver at the Virginia Aquarium.



Though some of his decoys are brightly painted "new" decoys, most are "antique-style ducks," Childress said. Rubbing the decoy wood with vinegar and steel wool to age it, using a crackling medium to weather the paint and letting finished decoys roll around the surf to roughen the finish are among the tricks he uses to antique a decoy. "It's a lot harder to make a decoy look old than new," he said. Childress, who carves standing up, said time goes by quickly. "Sometimes I don't even know it's dinnertime."

Now the fruit of that labor, including several antique-style canvasback ducks, is lined up in Childress' workshop/studio at his North End home, ready for the festival. A past president of the wildfowl guild and a show committee member, Childress also is making signs for the event. The main one features one of his canvasback ducks - halved, painted and glued to the sign and pointing the way to the festival.

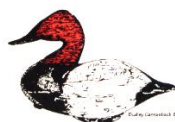


Do you have a young adult looking for work?

Do you have a student home from college?

Do you know someone that is looking for work?

College Hunks Hauling Junk is looking for a Mover/Driver/Team Lead to join our Virginia Beach team. As a Mover - Junk Remover, you are the first point of contact for clients on the job, and will educate clients about pricing and services, SAFELY operate the junk truck at all times, help train new hires and more. Excellent earning potential including hourly pay plus tips. We are hiring immediately for part time and full-time opportunities. Contact Parke Atkinson at parke.atkinson@chj.com or call 757-702-5296.





Upcoming Guild Events:

10/ 04, 11, 18, 25/2021: de Witt Garden Club
10:00 am, at the museum
Meets every Monday
Bring your work gloves and tools

10/19/2021: Board Meeting
6:00 pm in person

11/01, 08, 15, 22, 29/2021: de Witt Garden Club
10:00 am, at the museum
Meets every Monday
Bring your work gloves and tools

11/10/2021 – Photos with Santa & the Red Truck
11:00am-2:00pm

11/10/2021 – Holiday Craft Bazaar
10:00am-4:00pm

11/16/2021: Board Meeting
6:00 pm in person

11/19/2021: Gingerbread House Exhibit
Preview Party 6:00pm

November 20-December 18, 2021 – Gingerbread House Exhibit

12/07/2021 – Annual Christmas Party
6:00pm-9:00pm
VB Wedding Company at 2014 Atlantic Avenue

MUSEUM HOURS CHANGING

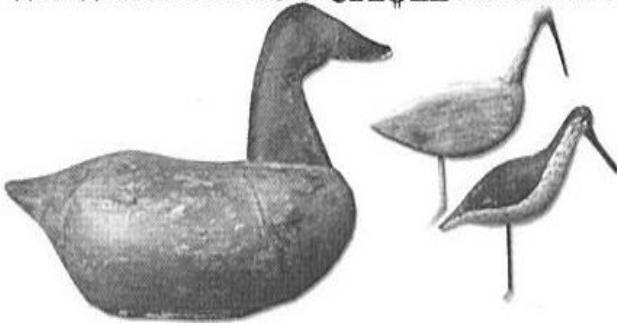
**BEGINNING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 THE ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM
WILL ONLY BE OPEN ON WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY 10:00AM-5:00PM UNTIL MONDAY MAY 30, 2022
WHEN WE WILL RE-OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK 10:00AM UNTIL 5:00PM.**



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



Pell Austin - Hen Canvasback

11/20/1887 - 11/13/1961

Pell Austin was born and raised Corolla, NC. He and his wife had 10 children, 7 sons and 3 daughters. Pell was a market hunter and guided hunting parties to make his living. He hunted around the Whalehead club north to near Knotts Island. He made canvas geese, blackheads, redheads and some oversized canvasbacks with great form.

One of his sons who I purchased some canvasbacks from hunted with wooden decoys until the late 1980's. I met several of his sons in the 1980s and they told the story of how the storm surge would surround their house with water so they would always keep 4 or 5 skiffs in the yard close to the house for evacuation. Pell finally got tired of evacuating from the storms and moved his family to the mainland on route 158 where the Green House stands today in Currituck.



	<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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FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

2021 certainly has not been the year we had hoped it would be. A third wave of the coronavirus, the Delta Variant, has prevented the museum and the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild from completely re-opening and operating as we wished we could. Winter brought a glimmer of hope as people began receiving vaccines and authorities began easing up on restrictions. Spring erupted with a rise in Covid-19 cases followed by more hospitalization and deaths. We were forced to cancel our traditional Spring Dinner at the Lucky Oyster. Summer saw the cancellation of many traditional events here in our city and Fall was not much of an improvement as we were once again forced to cancel our September Membership Meeting and our Annual Oyster Roast. It was all so disappointing; but, necessary to protect all of our beloved members.

Now here we are in October, Covid-19 cases are in decline, and both hospitalizations and deaths are down. So we are planning a Christmas Party for December 7, 2021. We will gather at the Virginia Beach Event Venue, 2014 Atlantic Avenue, from 6:00pm until 9:00pm. We will have live entertainment by the Tiki-Bar Band. There will be a silent auction, heavy Hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and cocktails. Which will be followed by a great potluck supper. Ladies, break out your best recipes as we sit back, relax and enjoy the season. Please R.S.V.P. to the Museum at (757) 437-8432, or director@atwildfowl.com. We will need a headcount to ensure we have enough food.

I want to take a moment to thank the Retail Alliance of Hampton Roads and all of the retailers that are members of this organization for selecting The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum as the Southside winner of The Retailer Of The Year (ROTY) in the "Specialty Artist" Category. This award is unique in the fact that the winners are selected by your fellow retailers. We are humbled and proud to have been selected. We want to thank everyone who voted and participated. Here is a video of the announcement:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BK_18_w6V9E

Retailer Of The Year is recognition of the great work our team has done in re-organizing, stocking and operating our museum gift shop, both online and in person. So please visit both as you begin your Christmas shopping!

Thank you, Lynn



O.M.G.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

POTLUCK SUPPER

SAVE THE DATE

SILENT AUCTION

DECEMBER 7TH 2021



SANTA!
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends of the AWHM,

Happy Fall to everyone. I hope my note finds you enjoying the cooler temperatures.

The change in weather also signifies the end of "tourist season" here in Coastal Virginia. The visits to the museum this summer by in and out of town patrons was refreshingly steady. While the summer months prove bountiful, the fall and winter provides opportunity for friend and fund raising initiatives. We continue to enhance the year round offerings at the cottage. Although we continue to feel COVID-19's impact, you saw earlier in this newsletter, a robust calendar of events. My thanks to Martha Davenport for her passion and persistence in this endeavor.

We remain in a good financial position overall as we look to 2022 with a focus to increase memberships and donations. This will only continue to strengthen our foundation as an organization. I challenge you to refer a friend, family member, colleague, or neighbor to visit the museum and experience its magic. I'm sure their time on our grounds will prove worthwhile. We no longer wish to be the place that folks have "heard of but never visited".

If you haven't visited in a while, I encourage you to come by. If you can make it past the beauty of the gardens, you will find updates on the inside as well. Two new restrooms, updated flooring, stellar exhibits, and a refreshing and prosperous gift shop with an array of coastal home decor, decoys, jewelry, and more. We continue to work with our partners at the City of Virginia Beach with additional updates and projects. Our two largest being the planned gazebo on the front lawn and new fencing around the entire perimeter of the cottage grounds. Although delayed due to COVID, I anticipate these both gaining steam in the coming months. In fact, I'll go as far as to say I anticipate breaking ground on our gazebo before winter. Our gardens continue to gain attention. As the most beautiful oceanfront location, folks can be found in them resting, reflecting, or even practicing their singing.

Lastly, officer elections will take place at our Christmas social. Next month nominations and discussion on officers will begin. I have enjoyed my terms serving as your president but it is time to pass the torch. I am thankful for what we have accomplished during a difficult time in our world's history but am even more excited for what lies ahead for the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum.

Cheers.

Jason W. Seward



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 Open
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 paid your 2021 dues, please give serious consideration to sending them into the museum right away. Beginning March 1, 2020, any listed member who has not paid their dues will receive an invoice from the museum director requesting payment of their annual dues

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
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!

