# THE WILDFOWLER

AUGUST 2022

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

# Back Bay Wildfowl Memories Back to Julia deWitt's Journals

Cecile Amelie Mottu deWitt had died at the age of 49. Her husband, Cornelius, had died suddenly 10 years earlier while on a business trip to Michigan. Now Julia and her older sister Elizabeth were left to raise and care for the other seven children still living at home.

It was a very somber time in the deWitt Cottage as the family grieved the loss of their mother and family Matriarch!

Wednesday June 20, 1923

Mrs. Tait came up to the house to take Mrs. Morris and Paul into town. John went with the Newtons and Cornelius with the Burtons. Jane and Wilcox came up for Elizabeth, Katrine, Harriet and me. They took us to Uncle Audie's before 10:00 am. Momma's funeral was to start at 11:00 am. Bishop Tucker and Mrs. Miner conducted the service. It was a great comfort to me to keep in mind that Momma was now in heaven away from all earthly sorrows and trouble. The flowers were perfectly wonderful and there were enough of them for the other graves in our lot at the cemetery. Mrs. Tait took all of us



back home in her big, beautiful machine. We have such a wonderful example to live up to. Our dear Mother was loved by all! We have received so many comforting letters and telegrams. Later in the day Elizabeth and I took Caroline and Peter to see Momma's beautiful flowers.

## Thursday June 21, 1923

Uncle Audie phoned down to let us know that Amelie would be here today (rather later tonight) from El Paso, Texas. Mrs. Morris had a very sick friend up at the Dyer's cottage so she went up to see her. Aunt Carrie went into town with the Tait's and got back around 5:00 pm. Oh! We have received so many letters from our friends and acquaintances about our dear Mother. More and More we realize how much she was loved by so many, many people and how much good she did everywhere. At five the Myer's sent their machine up to be at our disposal for the remainder of the evening. Of course, the chauffeur was with us. Hity, Katrine, John and I got in. First, we went to Uncle Audie's to pick him and Harry up. We went to the C&O and waited for everyone to get off the train. We then learned that Amelie's train had missed connections and she and the baby would not arrive until 9:00pm. So we went back where Uncle and Harry fixed supper for all of us. We talked for a while then went to get Amelie and the baby. Both of them were very tired; but, Oh, how good it was to see them. Poor Little Cecile, what a long and difficult trip for her.

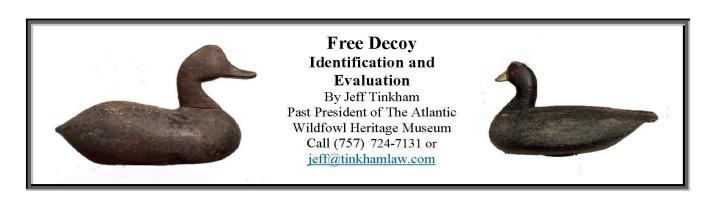


We are all so glad that little Cecile and Amelie are with us, But never, never did we realize that they would come back home under such a condition. Cecile understands everything Amelie says to her in French, and she says many more words in French than in English. Mrs. Milbank came up during the afternoon. Mrs. Tait took Elizabeth, Amelie and Katrine up to town in her machine. Katrine had to return to college. Elizabeth and Amelie went to get some flowers to put on dear Momma's grave. Mrs. Roberts came up to see the baby and Amelie. Mrs. Morris had to go up to town and on her return learned that her friend, Mrs. Page, was so sick she was going to return to Richmond tomorrow. We are all so sorry. Uncle Audie and Harry came by at night in Phelan Van's Machine. Uncle Audie and Amelie talked a great deal about momma's illness. He said it is a blessing that she did not linger and suffer for very long. We all talked about momma until eleven.



# YOU DID IT AGAIN! FOUR 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. We compete against some heavy weights like the Aquarium and Naticus. More than 100,000 votes were cast during Coastal Virginia Magazine's Readers Choice Best of Contest. Thank you so much for all of your support!







# **Upcoming Guild Events:**

08/01, 08, 15, 22, 29,/ 2022: de Witt Garden Club 10:00 am, at the museum Meets every Monday We are a hands-on Garden Club So, bring your gloves and tools.

08/16/2022: Board Meeting 6:00 pm at the Museum

09/05/2022: Labor Day

09/06/2022 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm Speaker: **Billy Crockett** Eastern Shore Woodcarving Artist

09/12, 19, 26/2022: de Witt Garden Club 10:00 am, at the museum Meets every Monday No meeting Monday, September 5th We are a hands-on Garden Club So, bring your gloves and tools.

09/20/2022: Board Meeting 6:00 pm at the Museum

-Sunday10/16/2022 AWHM Fall Barbeque & Oyster Roast de Witt Cottage 1113 Atlantic Avenue 1:00pm until 6:00pm

# **Save these Dates**

Sunday, 10/16/2022 AWHM Fall Barbeque & Oyster Roast This will also be a Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Homecoming and Reunion

Tuesday, 12/06/2022 5:00pm until 9:00pm AWHM Christmas Party Location to be Announced

12/10/2022 - Photos with Santa & the Red Truck, and Holiday Craft Fair

12/2/2022 Gingerbread Extravaganza



### FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Members and Friends,

I hope everyone is staying cool in the face of this never-ending heat and humidity. Please take it easy and stay hydrated!

We have had a very encouraging summer so far. We have continued to see brisk sales in the museum gift shop and the addition of the new Gazebo has produced a number of real quality venue bookings that we probably would not have been able to secure. We were also surprised last month to learn that City Council has given the museum a 17% increase in our Operational Grant. Please thank Barbara Henley, Rosemary Wilson, Michael Berlucchi, Linwood Branch, Guy Tower, Rocky Holcomb and Mayor Bobby Dyer for supporting this very important increase in our funding!

We are in need of some quality volunteers for the museum. We could use a person to track and keep up with memberships. We need docents to greet and educate our visitors. This will make our museum much more dynamic and much more informative. If you enjoy planning and executing parties and events, then we could use your help in putting the many activities together for our membership. If you enjoy gardening, we could sure use your help in planning, planting and cleaning our 4200 square feet of Ocean Friendly Garden. Our Garden Club is led by a Master Gardener that will teach you how to garden in a hostile saltwater environment. If any of these activities interest you or someone you know please contact the Director at <a href="mailto:director@awhm.org">director@awhm.org</a>.

We will be having our first general membership meeting in more than two years on Tuesday September 6, 2022. The social will start at 6:00pm and will include food and beverage, the business meeting will start at 7:00pm. Following the business meeting there will be a lecture and demonstration by Eastern Shore Champion Woodcarver Billy Crockett. Please put this meeting on your calendar now, you will not want to miss this meeting.

Save the date now for the return of our annual oyster roast. This year's event will take place Sunday, October 16th. Spend a beautiful fall day in the gardens, dancing to the music of the Tiki Bar Band, enjoying Beach Bully BBQ, local wine, beer, and Eastern Shore Sewansecott oysters! Tickets will go on sale soon. Bring your family, friends, and colleagues. This is a major fundraiser for our organization and its success depends on you. I'll see you there!

Also, save the date, Tuesday, December 6, 2022. This will be the date of our annual Christmas party. We will continue the tradition of "Pot Luck Supper". There will be live music, beverages of all types, appetizers, and a silent auction with some fabulous items. Location will be announced soon. Please plan to attend!

Membership in this organization has reached a critical level. This organization was formed in 1975 as a Guild for Wildfowl Artists. Artist of every discipline; painters, carvers, sculptures, and photographers pulled this group together all for the love of the world's wildfowl. We need to rely on our roots to continue recruiting new members; especially among our young people. You don't need to be an artist to join this group, all you need to do is love wildfowl. Please help us find some new members and remember to renew your own membership.

Finally, I will close on some sad but proud news. Our part time employee, Dorian Stewart, will be leaving on August 8, 2022 to enlist into the United States Army Reserve. He has been with us for the last four years and has been a stellar employee. Please join me in wishing Dorian the best as he begins a new adventure in his life. Good Luck Dorian.



COLLECTOR'S SHELF

# Isaac "Ike" Aydlett - Coot/Swimmer

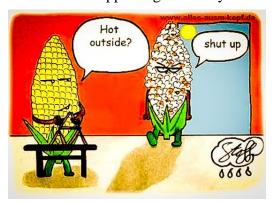
Isaac Aydlett (April 19, 1885 to April 1, 1979) Born in Grandy, NC



Ike quit school at a young age and started working on the waters of the Currituck Sound. As a young teenager (14) he got his first job as a Marsh Guard at The Narrows Island Club and was paid one dollar a day. Working for the club was labor intensive and included jobs such as baiting the blinds, setting out live decoys, taking hunters out to the blinds and observing the marshes for intruders. The caretaker for the club was Ashley Corbell, Ike's uncle, who he was employed by for many years.

Ike had a passion for hunting waterfowl during his FREE time and kept his boat at Neal's Creek Landing. Ike made several stands of coot decoys to go with his other decoys. These coots were for his personal use only. The redhead

coots have an appealing and folky look and are very collectible.



Page | 5







Sunday, October 16, 2022
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



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







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

Phil Davenport, President
Jim Mehne, Secretary
Jim Briggs
Tom Richards
Jeff Tinkham
Aimee Rhodes

Parke Atkinson, Vice President
Larry Davenport, Treasurer
Mark Cromwell
Jason Seward
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: Jamie, John, Pete Friday: Open Saturday: Susan Moritz 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 <u>awhm.org</u>!

Please understand that we depend on every dollar to operate the museum. If you have not yet paid your 2022 dues, please give serious consideration to sending them into the museum right away. Beginning January 1, 2022, 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

### **2022 DUES**

\$35/YR INDIVIDUAL \$100/YR BRONZE \$500/YR GOLD \$50/FAMILY \$200/YR SILVER \$1,000/YR PRESIDENTS CIRCLE

BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD 2022 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME:	AMOUNT PAID		
ADDRESS:			
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP CODE	
EMAIL ADDRESS:			
TELEPHONE NUMBER:			
January 1, 2022 kicked off our Annual l	Membership Campaign.	Each member is encoura	ged to find one ne

January 1, 2022 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

