

THE WILDFOWLER

SEPTEMBER 2022

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

Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum Oyster Roast and Fall Barbecue October 16, 2022, 1:00pm-6:00pm at deWitt Cottage

Reserve this date! It is going to be a great time

Come enjoy an afternoon of Endless Food and Beverage along with the smooth, soulful, dance, oldies and beach music of the Tiki Bar Band.



Get your tickets 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, enjoying cocktails, wine, beer, BBQ, Beef Brisket and Eastern Shore Sewansecott oysters! Sweet and salty these oysters are always a big hit! Beach Bully will supply the Barbecue and Beef Brisket with all the trimmings. Then close out the afternoon dancing to the tunes of the Tiki Bar Band. Comprised of lead singer Billy Kendra and his partner Mike Binetti, their music is fun and energetic.

Get your Tickets Here:

<https://go.evvnt.com/1281298-0>

or contact the Museum Director.





Upcoming Guild Events:

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

-Sunday 10/16/2022 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



**Have a great
Labor Day weekend!**



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

The pictured swan was made by Jim Brockman our friend and member of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. Sadly, Jim suffered a devastating fire in the early afternoon on Saturday August 27, 2022. The fire started in Jim's woodworking workshop and quickly spread to his home. Thankfully, Jim was able to escape the fire but was unable to save anything else and at 75 years old he must now, in his words, "start over from scratch".

Jim was born on 10/9/46 in Pennsylvania in his grandparents' home. His grandfather was a carpenter and as a child Jim would spend time drawing, carving and whittling in his shop. Brockman has lived and worked in Pungo for forty years and has been carving his whole life. His workshop was a patchwork



building made of wood-siding and sawdust was his floor as Jim preferred to work in his bare feet.

Unfortunately, the workshop was considered uninsurable because it didn't have concrete floors or metal walls. He lost all of his carving tools, chisels, mallets, hand-saws and knives, some of which belonged to his grandfather.

Jim specializes in antique reproductions and has made replicas for The Jamestown Settlement including a chair made for Queen Elizabeth for an anniversary celebration in Jamestown. He also made nautical instruments and sea chests and recently a wooden figurehead mooring post for Jamestown. He created antique replications for The Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton and also for The Mariners' Museum in Newport News and hand carved woodwork for the Hermitage Museum & Gardens in Norfolk. Jim has carved religious replicas for historic churches and schools including St. Patrick's School and Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception and St. John The Apostle in Virginia Beach.

Jim has made many antique replications of decoys from Back Bay and Knott's Island such as John Williams ruddy ducks and the Dudley brothers ruddy ducks and canvasbacks. The swan in the photo pictured on the day of the fire was made in the Jim Brockman style for John Maddox in the mid-1990's and is carved from juniper wood. Jim and John Maddox had a close relationship and worked together at John's decoy museum in Chincoteague. We are humbly asking for donations for [Jim Brockman's Recovery Fund](https://www.gofundme.com/jimbrockmansrecoveryfund) at [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com/jimbrockmansrecoveryfund). The funds raised will be used to rebuild Jim's workshop and to purchase new woodworking tools. **Thank you for your support.**



FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Happy Labor Day Weekend Everyone,

The biggest item to discuss at the current moment is our upcoming Oyster Roast and Fall Barbeque scheduled for Sunday, October 16, 2022 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM at deWitt Cottage. Please plan to attend and bring your family and friends. Tickets are limited so go to <https://go.evvnt.com/1281298-0> and get your tickets today. Beach Bully will be supplying the barbeque and the beef brisket with all the trimmings. The oysters are coming from Sewansecott Oyster Company in Willis Wharf, Virginia. These oysters will be sweet, salty and delicious. I want to thank H. M. Terry Company for delivering them to us. The Tiki Bar Band will serenade us all afternoon.



If anyone out there has silent auction items they would like to donate to the museum, please contact the museum director at director@atwildfowl.org or call the museum at 757-437-8432. We will be having a silent auction at the Oyster Roast.

Our venue is becoming more popular by the day. We have hosted eleven events here at the museum since the beginning of the year and we will host five more before the new year. If you would like to host an event at deWitt Cottage, please contact the museum director at director@atwildfowl.org or call the museum at 757-437-8432. Your membership in the museum may entitle you to a reduced or even free use of the venue.

Don't forget there is a membership meeting this coming Tuesday September 6th in deWitt Cottage at 6:00 PM. Social starts at 6 and the business meeting will begin at 7. Billy Crockett from the Eastern Shore will be our guest speaker and he will do a decoy carving demonstration.

The museum will begin its winter hours on September 12th. The museum will be open Wednesday through Sunday 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM. We will close on Monday and Tuesday until next Memorial Day.

We have some great holiday events planned for December. On 12/02/2022 we will kick off our annual gingerbread extravaganza here at the deWitt cottage. We are planning to have several gingerbread houses on display in our upstairs gallery. This is always exciting for all the children who visit our museum! On Tuesday, 12/06/2022, we are planning to have our annual Christmas party right here at deWitt cottage. On Saturday, 12/10/2022, you will be able to have your picture taken with your family and Santa Claus. You will also be able to shop our Craft Fair for your gift giving needs.

Lastly, I wish to thank each and every one of you for your tremendous support over the past two years. It has been a very challenging time for all of us; but, we have all demonstrated that we can survive even the most difficult situations. Without the support of the members of this organization we would not be able to continue our operation. I am eternally grateful to each and everyone of you for your support.

Lynn Highttower
Director



Your support and generosity are always appreciated!

Fall is coming, this hooded sweatshirt is in your gift shop, only \$27.95



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



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Phil Davenport, President Parke Atkinson, Vice President
Jim Mehne, Secretary Larry Davenport, Treasurer
Jim Briggs Mark Cromwell
Tom Richards Jason Seward
Jeff Tinkham William Walsh, Jr., Curator
Aimee Rhodes 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 awhm.org !

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: _____ [CELL] _____

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

