

# THE WILDFOWLER

DECEMBER 2022

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

## Annual Holiday Party A Big Hit!



First we had a beautiful evening under a full moon! The Tiki Bar Band kept everyone feeling the mood! We all enjoyed a beverage of our choice, along with some delicious appetizers and desserts shared by all of our guests. Clayton's Counter provided roasted turkey, ham, mashed potatoes with gravy and green beans. We had a great silent Auction and we drew the winners of the Fall Raffle.

C-Z Shotgun – Travis Gerber  
Red Head Drake Decoy – Nathan Beck  
Framed Pintail Drake Print - Travis Gerber





## ***Upcoming Guild Events:***

12/05, 12, 19, 26, 2022: de Witt Garden Club

10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

Bring your work gloves and tools

12/06/2022 – Annual Christmas Party

5:00pm-9:00pm

At the Museum

12/10/2022: Photos with Santa & the Red Truck

11:00am-2:00pm at the museum

12/01/2022-12/22/2022: Gingerbread House Exhibit

No Board Meeting in December

01/17/2023: Board Meeting

6:00 pm Hybrid

In-person and on Zoom



**Save The Date!**

**February 4, 2023 Cocktail Party**

**Catered by Steinhilber's Restaurant**

**Fundraiser: \$150 for Individual, \$250 for a couple**

**Dine Out for deWitt starts in January 2023**

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

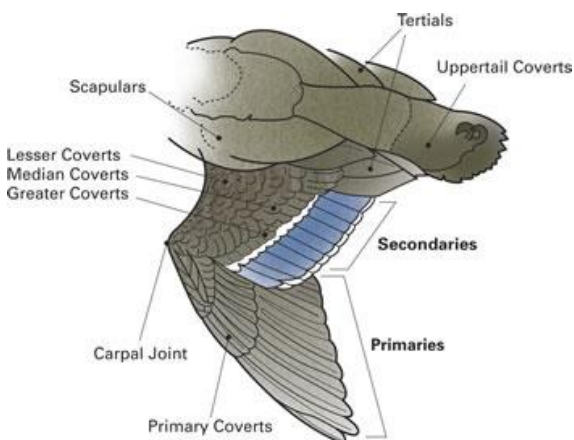
## Understanding Waterfowl: Ducks in Motion

A closer look at the biomechanics of waterfowl movements

*By J. Dale James, Ph.D.*

Whether it's a huge flock of lesser snow geese passing overhead, a hen pintail leading her recently hatched brood overland, or a canvasback diving for aquatic vegetation, waterfowl are fascinating to watch when they are on the move.

Years of natural selection have made waterfowl exceptionally well adapted to their environments, allowing the birds to fill diverse ecological niches. This process has resulted in great variation in the body structures of waterfowl, which affects how the birds fly, swim, and walk.



Muscles, joints, and feather all work together when a bird takes to the air. During flight, each feather type labeled above performs a specific duty to keep the bird aloft.

There are few spectacles in nature more impressive than the annual migrations of waterfowl across this continent, and it's the marvel of flight that allows these impressive bird movements to occur. Waterfowl wings provide the two essential elements of flight: lift and thrust. Primary feathers (the outer flight feathers) provide thrust, which is the force that propels a bird through the air and maintains forward momentum. The secondary feathers (the inner flight feathers) provide lift, the force that pushes a flying bird in an upward direction. Other special adaptations for flying that are shared by all waterfowl include a streamlined body, lightweight hollow bones, and a rigid skeleton.

The wings of each waterfowl species are designed to help the birds exploit specific habitat types. For example, dabbling ducks spend much of their time feeding and resting on small, shallow wetlands, where the birds are



vulnerable to a variety of predators. Thus dabblers have long, broad wings that enable them to take off quickly and to maneuver gracefully around trees and other obstacles. In contrast, diving ducks frequent large lakes, rivers, and bays, often diving to great depths while feeding. Consequently, their wings are shorter, narrower, and swept back like those of a fighter jet. This design enables diving ducks to fly at high speeds over open water. It also allows them to compress their wings tightly against their body while diving. The trade-off is that diving ducks must run across the water to reach the speed necessary for takeoff and beat their wings more rapidly to remain airborne. This relationship between the size of a bird's wings and its body is known as wing loading. Thus, dabblers exhibit low wing loading, while divers have high wing loading.

The legs and feet of waterfowl play an important role in the birds' movements on land and in water. Designed primarily for paddling, the legs of waterfowl are set back on the body. It's that placement, along with their large webbed feet, that gives the birds their characteristic waddle when they walk. Geese and dabbling ducks often feed on land and typically make their nests there, so their legs are not positioned as far back as those of diving ducks. Among North America's waterfowl, black-bellied whistling ducks are especially well adapted for walking. Black-bellies have a longer metatarsus (the leg bone that attaches to the toe bones) and smaller feet than other waterfowl, which enables them to walk gracefully on land.

Waterfowl developed webbed feet to help them swim and dive more efficiently in wetland environments. While swimming, waterfowl push both backward and downward with their legs and feet. The webbing between their toes spreads out on the down stroke to create more surface area and push more water. The toes are then folded together or turned inward on the forward stroke to minimize water resistance. This motion provides both the lift and thrust needed to propel waterfowl quickly and efficiently through the water. Diving ducks such as redheads, scaup, and canvasbacks use their webbed feet to generate the force required to dive long distances underwater. Divers also paddle constantly while bottom feeding to offset the buoyancy of their bodies and keep from floating to the surface. Swans, geese, and dabbling ducks paddle with their feet to keep their bodies partially submerged while tipping up to feed in shallow water.

The many interesting adaptations that affect how waterfowl fly, swim, and walk developed over time to allow the birds to thrive in diverse habitats. The next time you see a duck in motion, consider the remarkable design behind the bird's movements as well as the importance of conserving the wetlands and other habitats that support the waterfowl we all enjoy. *Dr. Dale James is manager of conservation planning in Ducks Unlimited's Southern Region.*

Here is just a taste (pun) of one of the 13 Gingerbread Houses

On display at the deWitt Cottage in our upstairs gallery.

For more information go to:

[deWitt Cottage Gingerbread House Contest & Exhibit \(thedewittcottage.org\)](https://thedewittcottage.org)

Hurry, the contest ends December 22, 2022,

when the winners will be announced!



Santa Claus is coming to town!

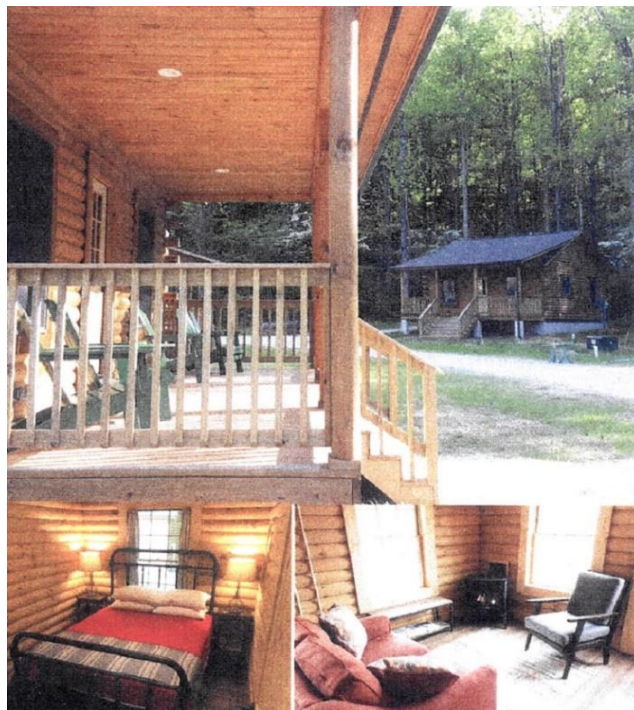
He was at dewitt Cottage on Saturday 12/10/2022.

All the pictures can be found at:

[Dewitt Cottage Photos with Santa 2022 - robbiehickman](https://www.dewittcottage.org)







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*Your hosts, Bill and Becky Evans*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To all,

I am coming to the end of my term as President and will be turning over the reins in January to a new President who was elected at the annual Christmas party on December 6. I believe the museum and the guild are well positioned, and I believe President-Elect Aimee Rhodes will take us to new heights. I will continue to be active on the Board and to contribute to our success.

I thank you all for this opportunity and wish the best for everyone in the future.

**Phil Davenport**

**President**

The World has lost another Master Carver and Teacher

Allan (Al) L. Brandtner, Sr

Al passed away on Thursday evening, December 8, 2022 at the age of 84.

You can learn more about Al by clicking the link below:  
<https://www.omanfh.com/>

We will miss you Al.



## BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aimee Rhodes, President	Phil Davenport, Vice President
Parke Atkinson, Secretary	Larry Davenport, Treasurer
Jim Briggs	Mark Cromwell
Tom Richards	Jason Seward
Jeff Tinkham	William Walsh, Jr., Curator
Jim Mehne	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:	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](http://www.awhm.org)  
Email: [director@atwildfowl.org](mailto:director@atwildfowl.org)

**You can now pay your dues online at [awhm.org](http://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!***

