

THE WILDFOWLER

MARCH 2023

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

BACK BAY
KNOTTS ISLAND
EST. 2017

WATERFOWL
FESTIVAL

MARCH 11TH 2023

SATURDAY 9 AM TO 4 PM

VIRGINIA BEACH
VIRGINIA

RURITAN CREEDS CLUB

INQUIRIES U.S.A. 757.663.6970





Upcoming Guild Events:

03/06, 13, 20, 27, 2023: de Witt Garden Club

10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

Bring your work gloves and tools

03/07/2023 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild

Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm

Program: Cameron Evans

Photographer from Tangier Island, VA

03/11/2023 Back Bay-Knotts Island Waterfowl Festival

Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm

Creeds Ruritan Barn 1057 Princess Anne Rd

We need Volunteers

03/13/2023 Dine Out for The de Witt

5:00pm – 8:00pm at 501 Kitchen + Bar

501 N. Birdneck Road

Virginia Beach, VA 23451

03/21/2023: Board Meeting

6:00 pm in person and on Zoom

At deWitt Cottage

04/03, 10, 18, 24, 2023: de Witt Garden Club

10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

Bring your work gloves and tools

04/18/2023: Board Meeting

6:00 pm in person and on Zoom

At deWitt Cottage

Save these Dates

Monday, April 3, 2023 Dine Out for deWitt at Oceanfront Eats

Tuesday May 1, 2023 Lucky Oyster Virginia Beach, VA 5:30pm-8:00pm



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Supporters,

I want to begin with condolences to the Davenport family for the loss of their mother, Jessie Mae (Bielling) Davenport, 1921-2023; she was 101 years old. Phil Davenport (Darlene) is our immediate past president and Larry Davenport (Martha) is our current treasurer. Phil and Larry have three brothers Michael, Pat and Richard. Please keep the Davenport family in your prayers.

We are busy preparing for our very first membership meeting, in a very long time, here at the DeWitt cottage on March 7th from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. The social hour starts at 6:00pm with the business meeting and program following at 7:00pm. Cameron Evans will be visiting from Tangier Island, Virginia located in the Chesapeake Bay. Cameron is an award-winning photographer.

I'm very excited to announce that at the end of March we will receive a visit from the Cornerstone Preparatory Academy located in Acworth, Georgia. They are coming to the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum for a day of service and to learn about Ocean Friendly Gardens. They will also learn about ways to eliminate plastic from our environment through a program sponsored by our partners at Surfrider Foundation-Virginia Chapter.

I want to thank everyone who came out to our first Dine Out for de Witt, held at IL'Giardino on the oceanfront, Tuesday evening, February 28th. I know the traffic was horrible that day due to President Biden's visit to Hampton Roads, I so appreciate everyone's extra effort. Our next Dine Out opportunity will be on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 501 Kitchen, 501 N. Birdneck Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 from 5:00pm until 8:00pm. Please help us fill up the restaurant.

Thank you,

Aimee Rhodes

President

We would like to thank Mark and Margie Cromwell for their very generous donation to the operation of our Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum

When we count our blessings, we count you twice!

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!



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 LIGHTHOUSE CLUB CHRONICLES

Gardiner Greene Hammond (1832—1903)

Last month, we discussed Arthur Amory, one of the six founders of the Lighthouse Club on Currituck Sound in 1874. You will recall the decoy stamped/branded with his name, and that he was from a Boston Brahmin family, an 1862 Harvard graduate, and member of Harvard's Porcellian Club. While we didn't know the carver of the Amory decoy, this month's discussion provides some evidence of what could be its origin.



As part of the larger group of decoys acquired by Mark Cromwell, three are stamped/branded "G G Hammond." Upon initial reflection, one is left to wonder who that might be. After all, we have only initials and a very

common last name. However, in our case we are putting together a puzzle—we know where a piece goes by how it fits onto adjoining pieces already in place. In this case, what we know about Arthur Amory tells us with certainty who G. G. Hammond is—i.e., Gardiner Greene Hammond, Sr. (According to entries in the Lighthouse Club logbook, Gardiner Greene Hammond, Jr., 1856—1925, was too young for our timeframe.)

Arthur Amory's mother was Mary Copley (Greene) Amory, a daughter of Gardiner Greene (1753—1832) who was the wealthiest man in Massachusetts in the latter 1700s—early 1800s. Arthur Amory was Gardiner Greene's grandson through his mother. You will recall from an earlier edition of our chronicles that Gardiner Greene owned thousands of acres of sugar, cotton, and coffee plantations in Guyana on the coast of South America between Venezuela and Brazil. Greene spent much time on those plantations himself, from which he exported the sugar, rum (distilled from molasses, a sugar derivative), cotton, and coffee he produced to Boston



and then throughout the colonies. This was done during the time when sugar was king—when the value of sugar produced in the Caribbean Basin was worth many times more than the sum total of everything produced in the thirteen colonies. Gardiner Greene was at the forefront of the sugar business, and he built an immense fortune through that and other of his enterprises. His lineal descendants most certainly benefitted from his good fortune.

Our Gardiner Greene Hammond's mother was Susannah Copley Greene, also a daughter of Gardiner Greene, making Hammond, too, a grandson of Gardiner Greene through his mother. Amory's and Hammond's mothers were sisters, making Amory and Hammond 1st cousins. While Amory was old-money wealthy from his father's side of the family, he still followed and worked in the Amory family's merchant footsteps, ultimately owning, among other things, profitable cotton mills in New Hampshire (Nashua Mills) and Alabama (Indian Head Mills). (In the latter half of the 1800s, many righteous northerners were highly critical of the exploitation of child labor in southern mills like Indian Head, which, ironically, was owned by a blue-blood northerner!) In other words, Amory still at least appeared to be striving to further enrich himself. On the other hand, however, Gardiner Greene Hammond's obituary noted that he "...never was engaged in active business life." Apparently, he enjoyed his gilded-age existence while being gainfully unemployed, if you will. Although he and his brother, Samuel Hubbard Hammond, were orphaned at an early age, they both were educated at Harvard, after which they devoted several years to European travel. (Remember the Hubbard name—we will see it again in a later edition. Blue Bloods married other Blue Bloods, almost exclusively!) It's impossible to imagine their travel was done on the lam or even a shoestring budget. After returning to Boston, in 1856 Gardiner married Elisabeth Crowninshield Mifflin. (Remember, too, the Crowninshield name—we will revisit it in a subsequent edition of these chronicles and experience a rich piece of our nation's history, from the 1700s to Watergate in the 1970s. For now, however, I will share that Elisabeth was a granddaughter of Benjamin Crowninshield (the first of that name), U.S. Sec'y of the Navy under Presidents and Founding Fathers Madison and Monroe. His grandson Benjamin Crowninshield (the second of that name) was a Lighthouse Club member we will hear about later—there's considerably more to learn about the Crowninshield's.) Because Hammond never worked professionally, our knowledge of his life is limited. However, we do know from the evidence we have that he used the decoys pictured when hunting at The Lighthouse Club. We will also learn later that he was just one of a number of Arthur Amory's relatives and fellow Harvard graduates who were members and hunted at the club.

Gardiner Greene Hammond's decoys also give us a clue as to where a number of the club's decoys might have been carved. (Keep in mind that these decoys are 130+/- years old. A large portion of the Lighthouse Club logbook entries preceded 1890.) We have a group of decoys very similar to Dodge factory birds (Dodge began production in the 1880s). We also have a number that Mark suggests may have been carved in Connecticut, to include the Hammond and Amory birds, as well as others we will explore later. It turns out that our Gardiner Greene Hammond had a widely celebrated summer home in Waterford, CT. "Walnut Grove" is noted as "...the former estate of the Hammond family, descendants of a wealthy Boston merchant <i.e., Gardiner Greene>." It is currently a National Historic Site and a well-preserved example of a 'gentleman's farm,' as the photo below reveals. Gardiner Greene Hammond, Sr. acquired the property in 1862. With his Waterford estate's proximity to Long Island Sound, it is well within reason that Hammond acquired these decoys for himself and fellow Lighthouse Club members from a local carver he knew of in Connecticut or perhaps even Long Island, which has also been suggested as an origin of the Amory decoy. Perhaps one day, that mystery as well will be solved.





General Membership Meeting
March 7, 2023
In de Witt Cottage
Social at 6:00pm
Business Meeting and Program at 7:00pm

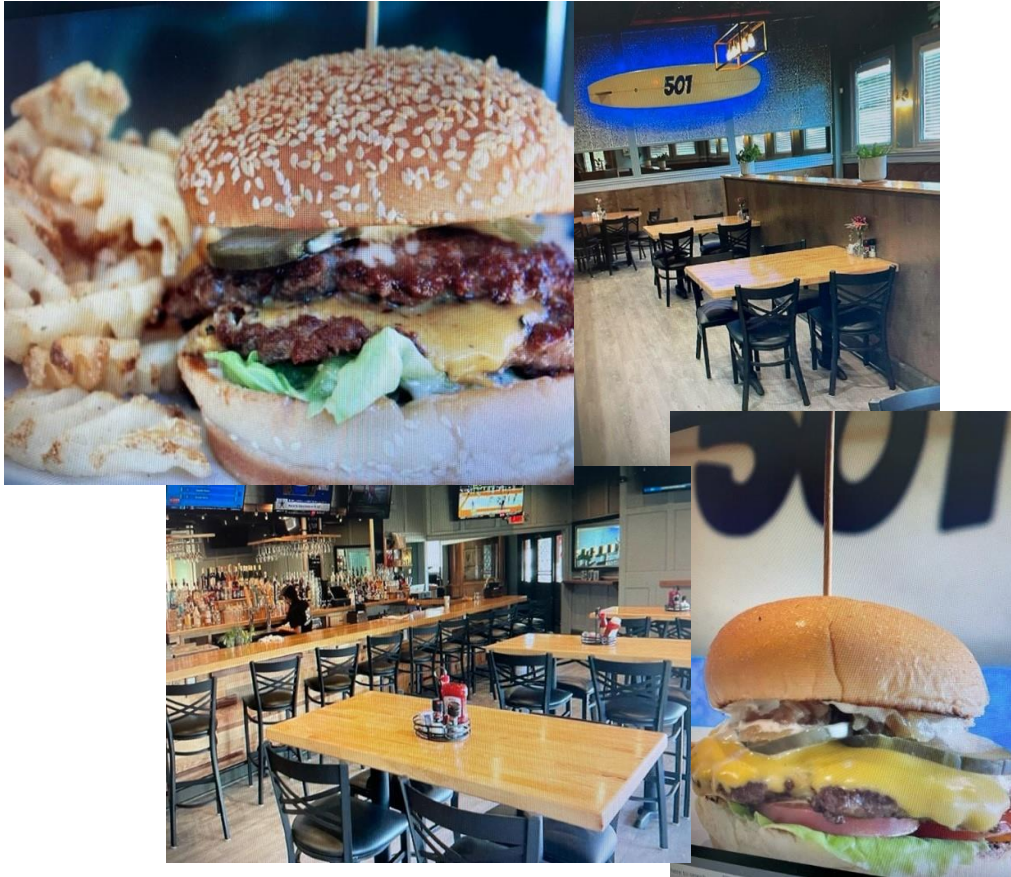




Cameron Evans
Award Winning Photographer
Tangier Island Resident



Dine Out For de Witt Cottage

Our next “Dine Out For The deWitt” will be at the 501 Kitchen + Bar, 501 Birdneck Road on Monday, March 13, 2023 from 5:00pm until 8:00pm. This is the program where you take your spouse out to dinner and the restaurant donates a percentage of what your meal cost to the museum. Easy peasy; you go out to dinner with your friends, family, or **potential new museum member** and the museum receives a nice donation. What a great opportunity to introduce potential new members to our organization. Please invite your friends and family to join you! So let’s see how many people we can pack into 501 Kitchen + Bar. Please help us make this a very successful event!



	<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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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 Jim Mehne
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: 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

Please understand that we depend on every dollar to operate the museum. If you have not yet paid your 2023 dues, please give serious consideration to sending them into the museum right away. Beginning January 1, 2023, 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.

2023 DUES

\$35/YR INDIVIDUAL
\$100/YR BRONZE
\$500/YR GOLD

\$50/FAMILY
\$200/YR SILVER
\$1,000/YR PRESIDENTS CIRCLE



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD 2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____ AMOUNT PAID _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ [CELL] _____

January 1, 2023 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!

