
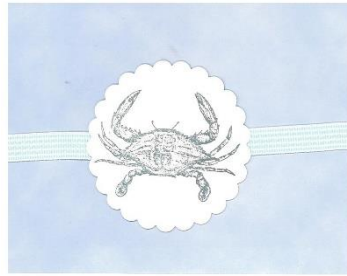
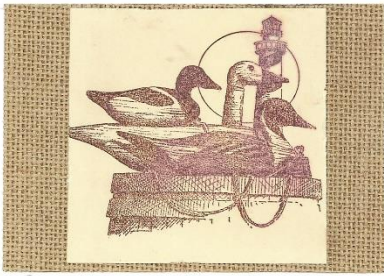


THE WILDFOWLER

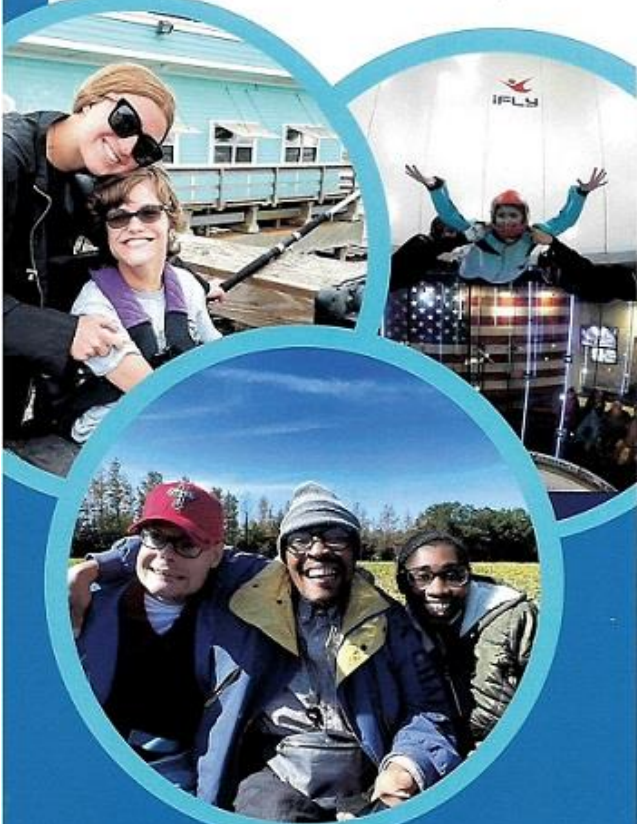
APRIL 2023

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

Last April 2022 a very unassuming young lady (Cathy Scarborough) came into the gift shop. She was wholesaling some greeting cards made by her disabled students at the Ability Center. She asked if we would be interested in purchasing and reselling some of the students greeting cards. I looked through the cards and selected about a dozen. There were no cards with wildfowl or any with beach themes. I suggested to Cathy that she have her students make some more cards with ducks, shorebirds and other wildfowl as well as some fish and other beach themed subjects and we would buy many more. So, at the beginning of March I ran into Cathy at a Bizconnect function. She invited me to come visit the kids on Wednesday and see what these young people had been crafting. Here are the results of their efforts:



ABILITY
CENTER OF VIRGINIA



**Helping individuals with
disabilities lead happy,
productive lives.**

757-497-7474
abilitycenterva.org



We now have a wide selection of greeting cards designed and crafted by students at the Ability Center of Virginia designed specifically for the museum. The cards are all blank inside and can be used for any occasion. They sell for \$5.95 each and when you purchase one of them you are supporting both the museum and the Ability Center of Virginia. Please come visit with us and see what else is new in our gift shop, you might be surprised! We will reopen seven days a week from 10:00am -5:00pm on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. For more information on the Ability Center of Virginia go to abilitycentervva.org

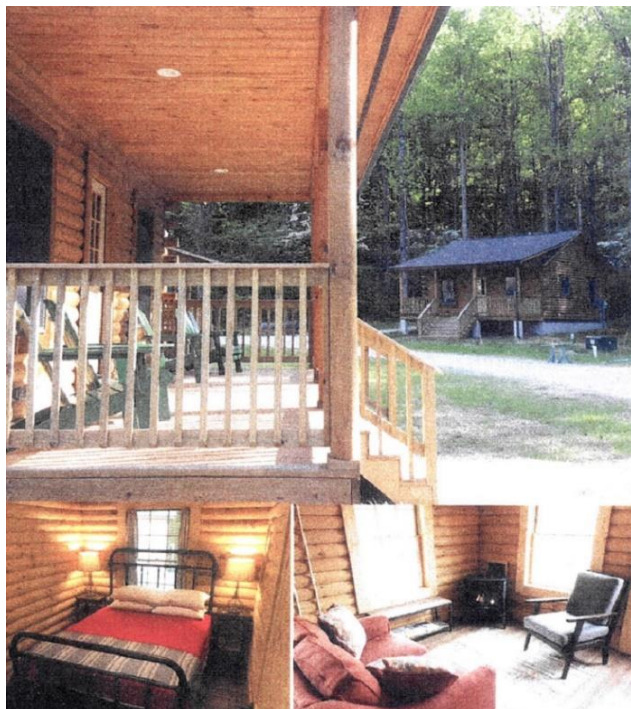
DECOYS WANTED

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.



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Located 0.8 miles from Devils Backbone and 3.5
miles from the entrance to Wintergreen Ski Resort.
5 miles from mile marker 13 on the Blue Ridge
Parkway and the Appalachian Trail.

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97 Stars Hollow
Roseland, VA 22967
off of Rte 151 in Nelson County

Reserve your getaway cabin today!

Your hosts, Bill and Becky Evans





Upcoming Guild Events:

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

04/03/2023 Dine Out for The de Witt

Monday 5:00pm – 8:00pm at Oceanfront Eats

Inside the Oceanfront Inn

2901 Atlantic Ave.

Virginia Beach, VA 23451

04/18/2023: Board Meeting

6:00 pm in person and on Zoom

At deWitt Cottage

04/24/2023 – 05/01/2023

“Something In The Water” Concerts

Museum Will Be Closed

05/01/2023 General Membership Meeting

Monday 5:00pm – 8:00pm at The Lucky Oyster

Annual “Spring Fling”

2165 General Booth Blvd Ste 154

Strawbridge Market Place. Virginia Beach, VA 23454

05/02/2023 – Tuesday

Museum reopens seven days a week

Monday through Sunday



10:00am – 5:00pm

05/08, 15, 22, 30, 2023: de Witt Garden Club

10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

Bring your work gloves and tools

	<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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COLLECTOR'S SHELF
THE LIGHTHOUSE CLUB CHRONICLES

Samuel William Rodman (1814-1906) & Charles Pelham Curtis II (1824-1906)



This month, we present another of what appears to be a Connecticut decoy, this time bearing two brands/stamps: “S.W.R.” and a puzzle. In the second stamp, one can make out some, but not all the letters. we have an almost imperceptible “C.” and a fully perceptible “P. CURTI.” Given the scant clues, one wonders who are these two sportsmen, how do we know they are members of the Lighthouse Club, and why might they have jointly owned this decoy. This, again, is like a jigsaw puzzle; we know where a piece goes by how it fits with pieces already in place. We can safely say “S.W.R.” is the initials of Samuel William Rodman, whose name appears in the club’s logbook. Our research also tells us Rodman had a home at 174 Beacon St. in Boston next door to the 172 Beacon St. residence of Lighthouse Club member Gardiner Greene Hammond whom we read about last month. Rodman was also uncle to another Lighthouse Club member, Dudley Leavitt Pickman, Jr. (1850-1938), a Harvard-educated lawyer (and Porcellian Club member) born into a Salem, MA merchant dynasty.

As noted above, in the other brand/stamp, we can make out a faint “C.” followed by a space and “P. CURTI.” So who might this be? Once again, the logbook and what we know about these sportsmen provide the necessary clues. The logbook reveals that one Charles Pelham Curtis was a club member. Obviously, the

aforementioned faint “C” is the initial for “Charles,” but the ending “S” in “CURTIS” is too faint to see. Nonetheless, we can be reasonably assured that this is our Charles Pelham Curtis. But in addition to the logbook, what we know about these sportsmen suggests why they would have jointly owned a decoy.

Let’s begin with Rodman. The Rodman family was in the whaling business, operating out of Nantucket and New Bedford, MA. A number of Rodman siblings married a number of siblings from the Rotch family, interweaving two New England whaling dynasties. While they made their considerable fortunes in what many would consider the gruesome whaling business, both the Rodman’s and the Rotch’s were, somewhat incongruently, devout New England Quakers and fervent opponents of slavery. This fact provides our clue regarding the joint ownership of our decoy.

Charles Pelham Curtis II was a Harvard graduate and Porcellian Club member who, after graduation, joined his father’s well-established firm and became a prominent and successful Boston lawyer. Perhaps more noteworthy, however, was a cousin, Benjamin Robbins Curtis, who practiced in Charles’ firm. Benjamin, too, graduated from Harvard and Harvard Law, and was a member of the Porcellian Club. (As noted above, Rodman’s nephew Pickman was also a Porcellian Club member. The Porcellian Club was like a Greek-letter fraternity at Harvard founded long before—in 1791—Greek fraternities came into existence. Most of the Lighthouse Club members appear to have been Harvard graduates, where they were also members of the



Porcellian Club. Because only a chosen few were punched for PC membership, those so punched all knew each other and shared a common bond.) After gaining wide recognition for his astute legal mind, Benjamin was appointed a U.S. Supreme Court Justice by President Millard Fillmore, having been recommended for that appointment by Massachusetts U.S. Senator Daniel Webster. He had the distinction of being the first Supreme Court Justice to have attended law school and earned a degree in law. But for our specific purposes, while sitting on the bench he was one of two dissenters in the infamous *Dred Scott* case, arguing against every element of the majority's decision which denied emancipation for the slave Scott.

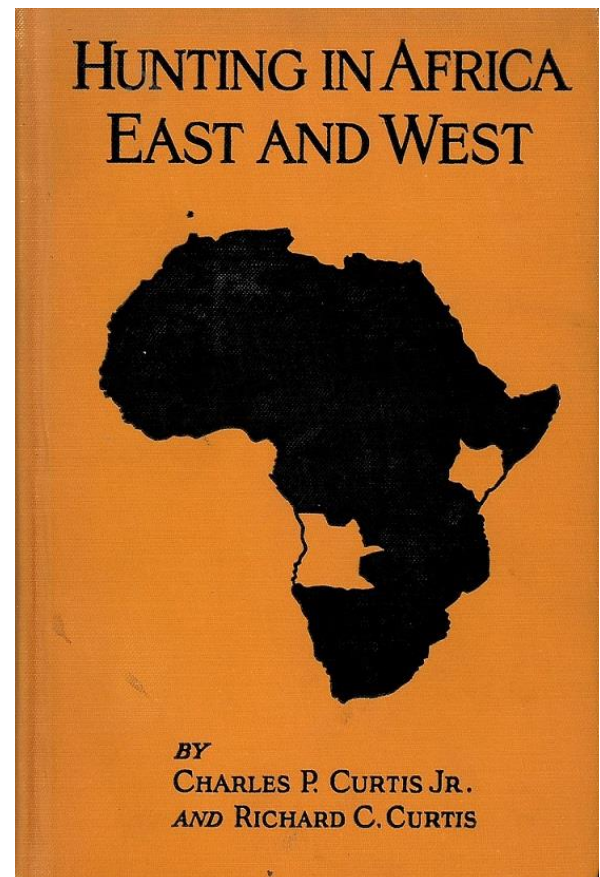
Like his cousin Benjamin, it is not unreasonable to assume our Charles P. Curtis shared the abolitionist views of his fellow Lighthouse Club member Samuel W. Rodman, making them like-minded fellows in the duck blind and co-owners of our decoy. Lastly, our Charles' son, Charles Pelham Curtis III, married a lineal descendant of our Arthur Amory's (subject of a previous edition of our chronicles) lineal ancestor, once again keeping it all in the family the Boston Brahmin way.

So here we have another decoy from the Lighthouse Club rig that was gunned over by these gilded-age sportsmen well over a hundred years ago. One is left to wonder what this and the other decoys in this collection might have heard and seen. If only we could give voice to these carved and painted blocks of wood made to mimic life...

In a final note ancillary to our story, Charles Pelham Curtis III's sons, Charles IV and Richard C. Curtis, penned a book about taking their father back to Africa on Safari, perhaps following in the footsteps of President Theodore Roosevelt (fellow Harvard grad and Porcellian Club member) whom they likely knew well since Teddy's first cousin, Robert Barnhill Roosevelt, was also a Lighthouse Club member. As you can see in the photo on below, I was fortunate to obtain a 1925 first edition copy of that book, which I've yet to begin.



AT NAROK, UNDER THE GREAT MIMOSA TREE NEAR OUR CAMP
From the left: Anita, Richard, myself, the Skipper, and my father



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Supporters

I wish to thank Martha Davenport for her concerted effort on behalf of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum in connecting us to the **"Something in the Water"** producer, IMG, Inc. As a result of her never ending representation of the deWitt Cottage, IMG will be leasing the cottage and the grounds from April 24, 2023 until May 1, 2023. They will be running the business office and ticket distribution operation on the museum grounds. The museum will receive substantial compensation in return. ***Thank you again Martha!***

I also want to Thank everyone who were able to participate in our last two annual Dine Out nights. While each of the dine outs by themselves raises a small amount; when they are combined, they will raise between \$1,000 and \$2,000. The dine out in February at IL'Giardino netted the Museum \$430.00. If we can produce that kind of turnout or larger at our next dine out, at Oceanfront Eats, 2901 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA. 23451, located in The Oceanfront Inn hotel on April 3, 2023, 5:00pm – 8:00pm. Oceanfront Eats ask that we park in the public parking garage if across the street. We will be close to \$1,000 from just two dine outs! Please invite your friends and family to join you! So, let's see how many people we can pack into Oceanfront Eats. Remember to mention to your server that you are supporting Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, so we may maximize our donation. Please help us make this a very successful event! This program could not be easier to participate in. 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 support the museum and introduce potential new members to our organization.

Thank you Lynn Hightower for diligently working on our mission and engaging with an out of state group to experience our museum! This event was a success for the group and the museum, on Wednesday March 29, 2023, we hosted 15 students from Cornerstone Preparatory Academy in Acworth, GA. The students learned about the history of early Virginia Beach, wildfowling, and decoy making. They also learned about ways to eliminate plastic from our environment and about Ocean



Friendly Gardens through programs sponsored by our partners at Surfrider Foundation-Virginia Chapter. They then went to work weeding the museum's garden beds and picking up trash to complete their day of service. Everyone took home a reusable shopping bag.

I graciously ask you to attend and invite family and friends to our next membership gathering at The Lucky Oyster, Monday, May 1, 2023, 5:00pm – 8:00pm, [2165 General Booth Blvd Ste 154 Virginia Beach, VA 23454](#), in the Strawbridge Market Place. This is our annual "Spring Fling Membership Dinner". There will be a raffle that will include five very nice prizes. I look forward to seeing everyone at The Lucky Oyster.

I hope to see and meet each of you soon. Thank you for your continuing support.

Respectfully, Aimee Rhodes, President





What's a gardener's favorite Beatles song?
Lettuce bee.



Why did the trees need to take a nap?
Forrest.



"A garden is a silent, loyal friend
and a great listener."



"Despite the gardener's best intentions,
Nature will improvise."



"Nature does not hurry yet
everything is accomplished."



"When the world wearies and society fails
to satisfy, there is always the garden."



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!

