

# THE WILDFOWLER

MAY 2023

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

## *Bay Back Wildfowl Guild Memories: Spring Celebration at the Lucky Oyster*



*On May 1, 2023 Members of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild and their guests descended on The Lucky Oyster in Strawbridge Market Place to consume massive amounts of seafood! It's our annual "Spring Fling" a 25 year tradition (except for 2 years due to the Pandemic). The evening ended with a raffle for some very nice prizes.*

*If you weren't there, you were square!*





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

05/01, 08, 15, 22/2023: de Witt Garden Club  
10:00 am, at the museum

05/14/2023 – Mother's Day



05/16/2023: Board Meeting 6:00 pm  
In Person at The deWitt and on Zoom

05/29/2023: Memorial Day

06/06, 12, 19, 26/2023: de Witt Garden Club  
10:00 am, at the museum

06/20/2023: Board Meeting 6:00pm  
In Person at The deWitt and on Zoom



	<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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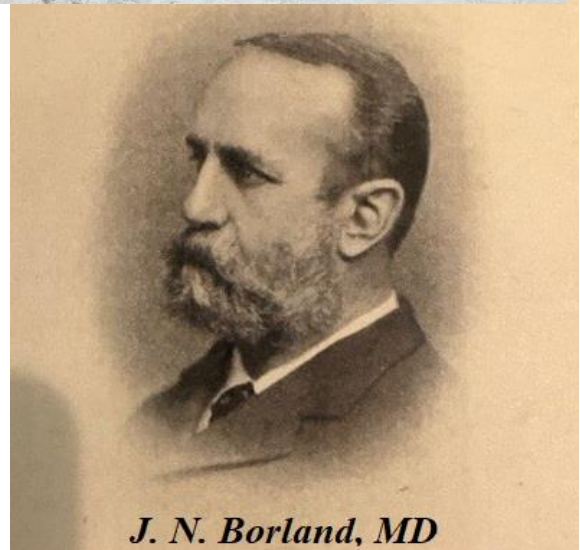




**John Nelson Borland (1828-1890) & Melancthon Woolsey Borland (1824-1909)**



Continuing our chronicle of the Lighthouse Club, this month we present the Borland brothers. Pictured is another of our hand-carved decoys bearing the stamp “\_ N. Borland (the first initial being obscured),” along with a photo of the decoy’s owner. The full name of this Lighthouse Club sportsman is John Nelson Borland, a Harvard-educated physician, a founder of the Boston (Free) City Hospital, and a direct lineal descendant of Francis Borland (1691-1763; his great-great-grandfather), described as “...an eminent merchant of Boston.” We will also discuss his brother, Melancthon Woolsey Borland, who hunted with him at the Lighthouse Club.



One might wonder how a mere physician, although he descended from a successful merchant, would be associated with super-wealthy Boston Brahmin sportsmen primarily of the successful merchant class. Delving a bit further provides the answer. John Nelson Borland had a close family relationship to one James MacMaster Codman, a fellow Lighthouse Club member (and decoy owner we will discuss in a later issue), who was himself related to Lighthouse Club founder Arthur Amory. More specifically, the father of John N. Borland’s daughter-in-law is the brother of James MacMaster Codman. Codman was the grandson of Katherine (Amory) Codman, whose father was the brother of our Arthur Amory’s great-grandfather, making Codman and Amory distant



cousins. But Dr. Borland also had a close professional working relationship to a member of the Amory family. As noted above, he was a founding physician of the Boston (Free) City Hospital, founded in the 1860s to care for the poor of Boston who, otherwise, could not afford healthcare. Thomas Coffin Amory (attorney, historian, biographer, poet, Massachusetts state legislator, and uncle of Arthur Amory) served on the Boston City Council's Joint Standing Committee for the creation of the hospital. He also served as President of the Board of Trustees for the hospital. Once again, we see how the lives of the Lighthouse Club members were interwoven. John's brother and fellow Lighthouse Club sportsman Melancthon Woolsey Borland also helps explain the Borland relationship to club members. Melancthon, a successful merchant, had purchased real property on Boston's Commonwealth Avenue from Fredric and Harcourt Amory, brothers of Arthur Amory. Melancthon and his brother John had also lived next door to each other at 227 and 229 Beacon Street, neighbors of other Lighthouse Club members. Subsequently, and after traveling for several years in Europe, Melancthon and his wife (a sister of his brother John's wife) acquired a home in Waterford, CT, where, as we know from a previous issue, fellow club member Gardiner Greene Hammond had a summer home. Obviously, the Borland's and Hammond's were associates both in and outside of the Lighthouse Club.

We noted above that John's and Melancthon's great-great paternal grandfather was an eminent merchant of Boston. Equally interesting were their maternal ancestors. Their mother was Rebecca (Woolsey) Borland, daughter of Melancthon Lloyd Woolsey, an officer in the Continental Army and a Major General of the New York Militia serving in the upstate wilderness territory during the War of 1812. His father was Col Melancthon Taylor Woolsey, commander of the Long Island colonial troops during the French and Indian War (1754-1763), in which he participated in the campaign against the French-held Ft. Ticonderoga in New York.

# 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.*





## FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Well, take a look at the calendar. It's May, and that means "Spring Fling" a May tradition for members of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild. On Monday evening May 1, 2023 a much smaller but nonetheless enthusiastic group came to the Lucky Oyster in Strawbridge Market Place. They dined on Oysters, Shrimp and Fish along with the beverage of their choice. We had 25 members, and their guests participate in this annual fundraiser. In 2019 we had 78 members, and their guests participate. While the turnout was disappointing, it was not surprising considering this was the first one since 2019. The evening concluded with a raffle where we gave away three beautifully framed prints, two nice bottles of wine, and some swag with the museum logo on it. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the museum.

At the end of this year I will be stepping down as the Director of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. Back in February I advised the Board of Director's of my decision to leave, they have begun a search for my replacement. The hope is we can find my replacement soon so that the new director can make an easy and informed transition into the director's job. If you know anyone who might be interested in the position, please have them email: [director@awhm.org](mailto:director@awhm.org) expressing their interest.

On Friday, May 5, 2023 (Cinco de Mayo), the museum played host to 56 business leaders from across Hampton Roads. They were all members and guests of Bizconnect Hampton Roads, a business networking group. The group enjoyed margaritas, mimosas, and bloody marys. They dined on egg fajitas, pimento chesse and cucumber slices, chips with homemade salsa and guacamole and an assortment of pastry. Everyone seemed to enjoy learning about the museum and its mission. It was a great opportunity to expose a very diverse group of local leaders to the museum.



## 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  
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Virginia Beach, VA 23451

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Website: [www.awhm.org](http://www.awhm.org)  
Email: [director@atwildfowl.org](mailto: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!***

