

# THE WILDFOWLER

AUGUST 2023

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

## *Back Bay Wildfowl Memories* *History of Surfing*



The riding of waves has likely existed since humans began swimming in the ocean. In this sense, body surfing is the oldest type of wave catching. Undoubtedly ancient sailors learned how to ride wave energy on many styles of early boats. Archaeological evidence even suggests that ancient cultures of Peru surfed on reed watercraft for fishing and recreation up to five thousand years ago. However, standing up on what is now called a surfboard is a relatively recent innovation developed by the Polynesians. The influences for modern surfing can be directly traced to the surfers of pre-contact Hawaii.

Archaeologists have found that the practice of riding a vessel with a wave was utilized since the pre-Inca cultures around three to five thousand years ago. The Moche Culture (Peru) used the Caballitos de Totorá (little horse of Totorá), with archaeological evidence showing its use around 200 CE.

An early description of the Inca surfing was documented by Jesuit Missionary, Jose de Acosta, in his 1590 publication *Historia natural y moral de las Indias*, writing:

“It is true to see them go fishing in Callao de Lima, was for me a thing of great recreation, because there were many and each one in a *balsilla caballero*, or sitting stubbornly cutting the waves of the sea, which is rough where they fish, they looked like the Tritons, or Neptunes, who paint upon the water.”

To this day Caballitos de Totorá are still used by local fishermen and can also be ridden by tourists for recreational purposes.

In July 1885, four teenage Hawaiian princes took a break from their boarding school, St. Mathew's Hall in San Mateo, and came to cool off in Santa Cruz, California. There, David Kawananakoa, Edward Keli'iahonui, Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole, and Elle Mancini surfed the mouth of the San Lorenzo River on custom-shaped redwood boards, according to surf historians Kim Stoner and Geoff Dunn. In 1907 George Freeth was brought to California from Hawaii, to demonstrate surfboard riding as a publicity stunt to promote the opening of the Los Angeles-Redondo-Huntington railroad owned by Henry Huntington, who gave his name to Huntington Beach. Freeth surfed at the Huntington Beach pier and travelled up and down the coast demonstrating surfing and lifeguard skills.



Surfing on the East Coast of the United States began in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina in 1909 when Burke Haywood Bridgers and a colony of surfers introduced surfing to the East Coast. The State of North Carolina honored Burke Haywood Bridgers and the colony of surfers by placing a North Carolina Highway Marker for PIONEER EAST COAST SURFING on Wrightsville Beach and designated Wrightsville Beach as the birthplace of surfing in North Carolina in 2015. North Carolina has the greater weight of published verifiable accurate evidence and impacts a broader geographical area when compared to other east coast states. Burke Haywood Bridgers and the colony of surfers activities are among the earliest appearances of surfboards in the Atlantic Ocean. The early twentieth-century surfers proved that surfing migrated from Hawaii to California and North Carolina about the same time, then Florida. The Wrightsville Beach Museum Waterman Hall of Fame honors, recognizes, and inducts community members for their contributions to the island's watersport culture.



The **East Coast Surfing Championships (ECSC)** is an annual surfing contest held in Virginia Beach, VA on the oceanfront, and is one of the United States Surfing Federation's major amateur events. The ECSC stretches over a four-day period every year in late August at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. The original inspiration for the East Coast Surfing Championships came from Long Island, New York, in the summer of 1962 when a group of teens held a beach and surf party. Since its official establishment in Virginia Beach in 1963, the ECSC has grown to be the now-longest running surfing contest in the world with the 61st annual surf competition held August 20-27, 2023.



The ECSC is a place not only for professional surfers, but for amateur surfers as well, to ride and contend for cash prizes totaling close to \$40,000 and championship titles. Men's and women's surfing events are held throughout the week, plus other beach sporting events such as Volleyball, Skateboarding, Skimboarding, a 5k Oceanfront run, and a swimsuit competition. A new event called the Beach Bum Classic was introduced in 2007. The Beach Bum Classic, organized and sponsored by Wareing's Gym in Virginia Beach, is a triathlon-type event including a one-mile sand run, a three-mile bike race on beach cruisers, and a half-mile surfboard paddling race.

A reported spectator count of over 100,000 people show up to watch the events during the day, and at night, the Virginia Beach Boardwalk fills with people for free concerts on the beach. Bands and musicians include national, regional, and local talents.

The ECSC is planned, organized, and employed by the Virginia Beach Jaycees, a chapter of a nationwide volunteer organization, the United States Jaycees. Media press and coverage includes ESPN, The Washington Post, and USA Today. Join us at the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum for Vendor Appreciation Days August 25-27, 2023 to celebrate the ECSC.









## YOU DID IT AGAIN! FIVE YEARS IN A ROW!

A big thank you to our members and followers who voted us Best Museum (Science and Nature), a Bronze Award. This is no small feat. We compete against some heavy weights like the Aquarium and Naticus. More than 100,000 votes were cast during Coastal Virginia Magazine's Readers Choice Best of Contest. Thank you so much for all of your support!

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

08/07, 14, 21, 28, / 2023: de Witt Garden Club  
10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

We are a hands-on Garden Club  
So, bring your gloves and tools.

08/15/2023: Board Meeting  
6:00 pm at the Museum

08/19/2023: KindFest  
12:00 Noon-4:00 pm  
Military Aviation Museum  
1341 Princess Ann Road

09/04/2023: Labor Day

09/05/2023 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild  
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm  
Speaker: Art Leonard, Chairman  
Ward Foundation

09/11, 18, 25/2023: de Witt Garden Club  
10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

No meeting Monday, September 4th  
We are a hands-on Garden Club  
So, bring your gloves and tools.

09/19/2023: Board Meeting  
6:00 pm at the Museum

-Sunday, 09/24/2023 AWHM Fall Barbeque & Oyster Roast  
de Witt Cottage 1113 Atlantic Avenue  
1:00pm until 6:00pm

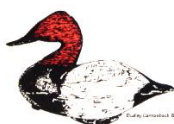
## **Save these Dates**

Sunday, 09/24/2023 AWHM Fall Barbeque & Oyster Roast  
This will also be a Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Homecoming and Reunion

Tuesday, 12/05/2023 5:00pm until 9:00pm  
AWHM Christmas Party

12/9/2023 - Photos with Santa & the Red Truck,  
and Holiday Craft Fair

12/1/2023 Gingerbread Extravaganza



## FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Members and Supporters,

As the days grow shorter and the sun begins to set a little earlier, we find ourselves at that bittersweet moment of the year: the end of summer. The season of warmth, relaxation, and adventure is slowly winding down, leaving behind cherished memories of lazy beach days, vibrant sunsets, and carefree laughter. As the gentle breeze carries a hint of autumn's approach, we are reminded that all good things must come to an end. Nearing the end of summer brings with it a unique blend of emotions. We reflect on the experiences we've had during these precious months, appreciating the moments of joy and the lessons learned. Whether we embarked on grand journeys or simply savored the small delights of everyday life, the summer has left an indelible mark on our hearts.

I am excited and happy to announce the Museum Board of Directors has selected the new director, Emily R. Bodsford. Emily hails from Richmond, Virginia; but, she insists she actually grew up on the docks of Deltaville, VA where she spent her youth sailing on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. She is a graduate of Old Dominion University with a degree in Environmental Science and Health. She has spent the last 9 plus years working for Lynnhaven River Now in a number of capacities. She currently resides in Chick's Beach with her son. Please join me in welcoming Emily to the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum.

During the week of August 20-27, 2023 The East Coast Surfing Championship will celebrate its 61<sup>st</sup> production of this great event. On August 25, 26, and 27, 2023, we will host our local vendors outside on the grounds of the Historic deWitt Cottage. It might be a great opportunity for you to pick up that item you've been wanting at a low sale price. Please come and visit with us!

On Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at the deWitt Cottage, we will be hosting our quarterly general membership meeting. The social will start at 6:00pm and will include appetizers and beverage, the business meeting will start at 7:00pm. Following the business meeting we will hear from Art Leonard, Chairman of the Ward Foundation. Please put this meeting on your calendar now, you will not want to miss this meeting.

On Wednesday, September 6, 2023 the museum will host the Shriners with a wine and cheese reception on the grounds of the deWitt cottage to welcome them to Virginia Beach.

Save the date now for the return of our annual oyster roast. This year's event will take place Sunday, September 24th. Spend a beautiful fall day in the gardens, dancing to the music of the Tiki Bar Band, enjoying Beach Bully BBQ, local wine, beer, cocktails, and Eastern Shore Sewansecott oysters! Tickets are on sale now on Eventbrite.com. Click [Here](#) to learn more and to purchase your tickets. You can also purchase tickets through our website at [awhm.org](http://awhm.org). Bring your family, friends, and colleagues. This is a major fundraiser for our organization and its success depends on you. I'll see you there!

Also, save the date, Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at the deWitt Cottage, 1113 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA. This will be the date of our annual Christmas party. We will continue the tradition of "Pot Luck Supper". There will be live music, beverages of all types, appetizers, and a silent auction with some fabulous items. Please plan to attend!





# 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.*



**JAMIE CHAMPE, JOHN MAZACH AND PETE TAYLOR**  
**"THE BOATHOUSE BOYS"**



**THE DEWITT COTTAGE GARDEN CLUB**  
**SARAH SAUTTER, JACKY RICHARDS, AND ELAINA LYCAS**







**Sunday, September 24, 2023 From 1:00pm until 6:00pm**

## **Annual Oyster Roast And Fall Barbecue**

**At deWitt Cottage**

**1113 Atlantic Avenue**

**Virginia Beach, VA**

**Advance Tickets \$65.00**

**Buy Two Tickets for \$120.00 and save an additional \$10.00.**

**Tickets will be \$75.00 the day of the event**

**To Purchase Tickets: [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)**

FEATURING: Pork Barbecue and Beef Brisket Sandwiches by Beach Bully BBQ, Roasted Sewansecott Eastern Shore Oysters. Live Music from Billy Kendra's Tiki Bar Band, Beer, Wine, and Cocktails - all included with your ticket.

PLUS you will receive a one year membership to the AWHM 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  
Chris Ludford   William Walsh, Jr., Curator  
Fletcher Bryant, President Emeritus

### MUSEUM CARVERS

Monday   Open  
Tuesday:   Open  
Wednesday:   Roy Carlson & Ed Morrison  
George Walker  
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,  
Sarah Sautter and Elaina Lycas

### MUSEUM STAFF

Lynn Hightower, Director   Joe Leo, Operations Mgr.  
Bailey Rhodes, Gift Shop

### 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 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!***

