

THE WILDFOWLER

OCTOBER 2023

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

New Director to Guide Museum

Introducing Emily Bodsford, the new Director of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. With over nine years of valuable nonprofit experience, she brings a wealth of expertise to her role. Emily holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences with a focus on environmental science from Old Dominion University. She has expanded her knowledge in the nonprofit sector and obtained a certificate in nonprofit management.

Her journey in the nonprofit sector began at Lynnhaven River Now, where she wore many hats and worked closely with friends and community partners for nearly a decade. Growing up in Richmond, she developed a deep love for the Chesapeake Bay, spending her summers and weekends Fishing Bay marina in Deltaville, enjoying crab-catching, oyster-eating, and sailing with her parents. She is the youngest of four siblings and cherishes her close relationships with each of them. Emily's son Blake, who is almost 7, keeps her on her toes and is her pride and joy. They live with their beloved dog Buoy in the vibrant community of Chics Beach.

"I've always dreamed of making a meaningful impact and working somewhere remarkable, with a view of the ocean," Emily recalls. She feels incredibly fortunate and honored to be in her new position at the historical de Witt Cottage and Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. She is excited to bring fresh energy and innovative ideas to build upon the incredible work already being done here.





Upcoming Guild Events:

10/02, 09, 16, 23, 31/2023: 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.

10/17/2023: Board Meeting

6:00 pm at the Museum

11/21/2023: Board Meeting

6:00 pm at the Museum

Save these Dates

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

AWHM Christmas Party

1113 Atlantic Avenue

At the Museum

12/09/2023 - Photos with Santa & the Red Truck,
and Holiday Craft Fair

11/25/2023 Gingerbread Extravaganza Begins at deWitt Cottage

MUSEUM HOURS CHANGING

THE ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM WILL ONLY BE OPEN WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY 10:00AM-5:00PM UNTIL MONDAY MAY 29, 2024 WHEN WE WILL RE-OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK 10:00AM UNTIL 5:00PM.

**Need to book a venue for your holiday celebration?
Book the historic deWitt Cottage. Call (757) 437-8432
Or email: director@awhm.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.

COLLECTOR'S SHELF

Sam Smith

Dates of birth and death unknown



Sam Smith was a carver from the village of Amityville on Long Island, NY. His decoys are characterized by their distinctive "hips." Decoy historians believe that these decoys made up the original rig of decoys at the Swan Island Club (Knotts Island) and date to the early 1870s. There are other decoys that bear member brands from the Swan Island Club such as Holly family decoys from Havre de Grace, MD and Mason factory decoys. William Minot, Jr. was a Boston lawyer and

served as a trustee and treasurer when the Club was reorganized as the Swan Island Club in 1883. He later served as President of the Club. John Bryant was a Boston physician and friend of William Minot, Jr.. Decoys in the Swan Island rig were often passed on to other members, as in this case, when another member left the Club. There are two Swan Island Club member brands on this decoy. Both brands are burned. The W. Minot Jr. brand is 1 7/8" long x 3/16" in height. The J. Bryant brand is 3 3/4" in length x 3/8" in height.

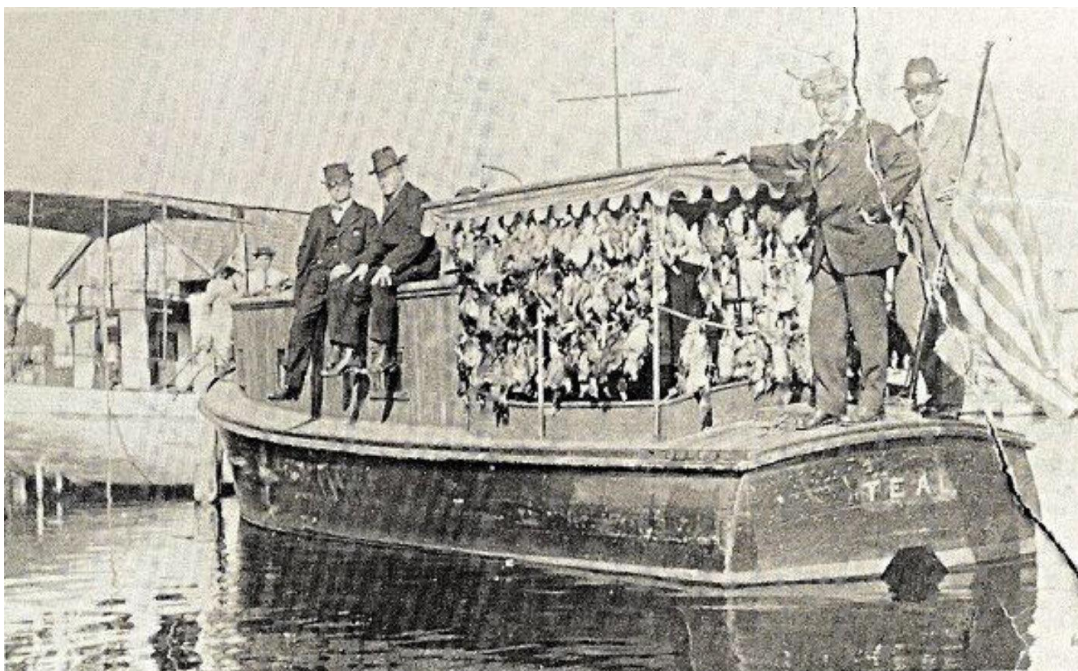
The Swan Island Club was founded by a group of hunters who were proceeding south from Good Ground, Long Island, New York in November 1870 in their yacht "Anonyona". During a storm they entered the Currituck Inlet and anchored next to Crow Island now known as Swan Island in Currituck Sound. As a result of the tide subsiding the hunters were not able to get the boat out of the sound and there it remained until 1877 when it caught fire and burned to the water. Once their boat burned they were in



need of living quarters, so the members purchased Crow Island and the marsh and converted Hatfield's farm house into a club house. Around 1900 the farm house burned and shortly after a new clubhouse was built. In 1910 the second clubhouse burned. The third clubhouse was built in 1913-1914 and is still standing today.



The Swan Island Club's 38-foot power boat "Teal" is shown with club members and a harvest of ducks and geese in 1919. On a return trip from Currituck Courthouse on November 12, 1925, the Teal struck a submerged piling and sank, the men were rescued by a passing schooner.



FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Despite a stormy week, the clouds cleared, and sunshine peaked around the clouds, setting the perfect scene for an unforgettable Sunday. Our talented friends from the Tiki Bar Band provided the ultimate soundtrack while Back Bay Brewing quenched our thirst with local brews. Friends and family enjoyed oysters sourced from the Eastern Shore and mouthwatering BBQ from The Beach Bully. Thank you so much to our amazing sponsors for making this event possible! We are also extremely grateful to our Board of Directors and members for their tremendous and continued support.

Save the date and pre-order your Wicked Salts Oysters and Clams To Go. On October 21, 2023 from 9:00am until 11:00am you will be able to pick up your pre-order of the following:

100 Oysters \$80.00

50 Oysters \$50.00

100 Little Neck Clams \$45.00

To place your order go to this [LINK](#). We will run this promotion again in November with a pickup date of Saturday, November 18, 2023 for those of you want fresh oysters and clams for Thanksgiving.

Our 3rd Annual Gingerbread House Competition and Exhibit will open on November 25, 2023 and continue through December 30, 2023. Last year we had 15 entries and we are expecting even more this year. We wish to thank our partners at the Virginia Beach Restaurant Association and Coastal Virginia Magazine for their help in presenting this special holiday event.

Then on December 2, 2023 the Red Truck will be in the Annual Christmas Parade starting at 5:00pm. The parade will pass down Atlantic Avenue right past the museum!



Save the date for our annual Christmas Party, Tuesday, December 5, 2023 5:00pm-9:00pm at the historic deWitt Cottage, 1113 Atlantic Avenue. Everyone brings an hors d'oeuvre or dessert, enough to share with others. Time to break out those special recipes ladies!

Santa and the red truck will be here at the museum on Saturday December 9, 2023 for "Photos with Santa and The Red Truck" 11:00am until 2:00pm.

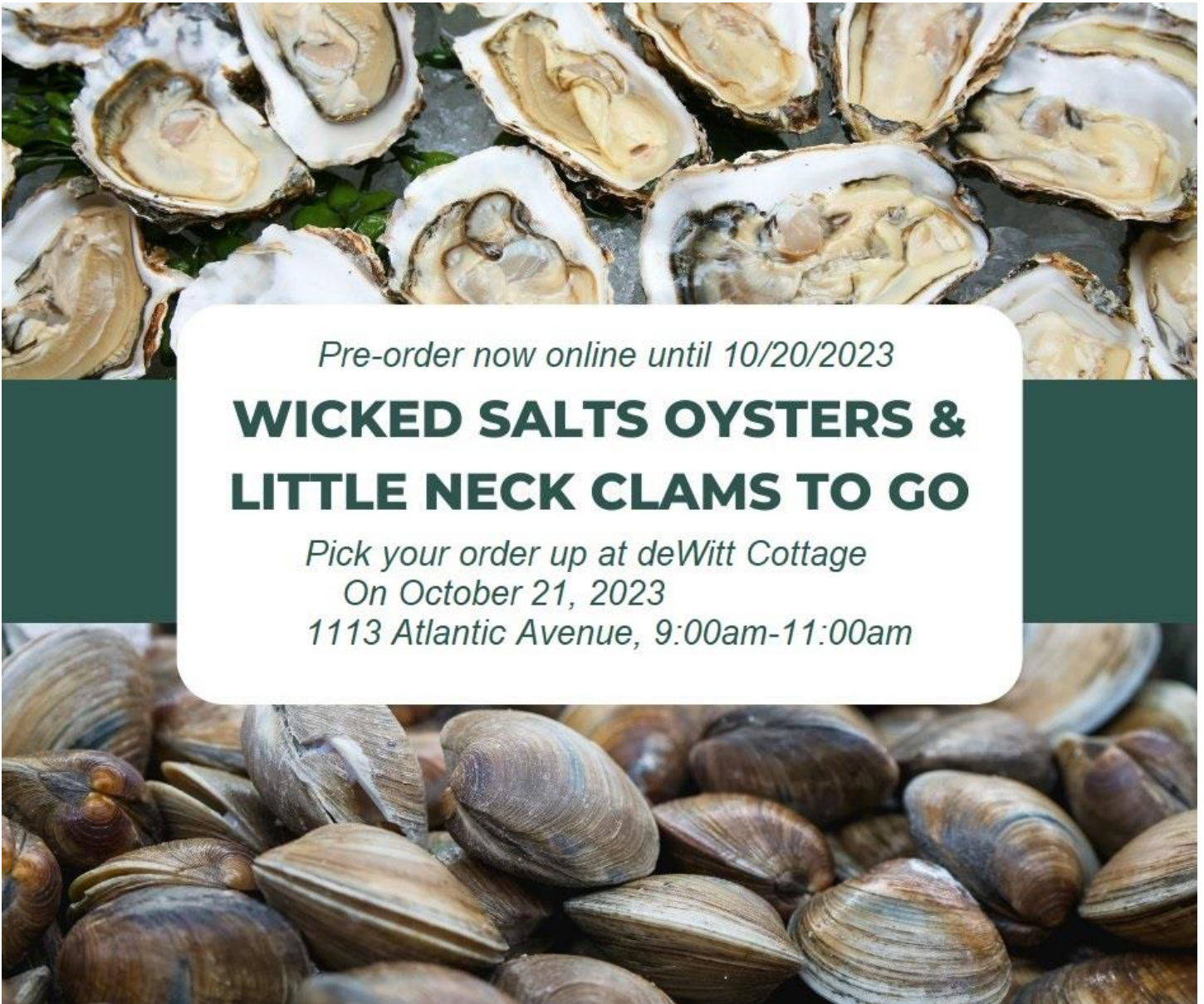
I am excited and humbled to have the opportunity to lead this wonderful organization into the future. I look forward to working with the Board of Directors to maintain the restoration of deWitt Cottage and further educate the public about decoy collecting, wood carving, wildfowling and environmental preservation. I hope to meet all of you very soon at one of our upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Emily Bodsford

	<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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Pre-order now online until 10/20/2023

WICKED SALTS OYSTERS & LITTLE NECK CLAMS TO GO

Pick your order up at deWitt Cottage

On October 21, 2023

1113 Atlantic Avenue, 9:00am-11:00am

To place your order Now, go to this [LINK](#).





Calling all Gingerbread devotees! Time to get your gingerbread jingle on. Entries for the 3rd Annual Virginia Beach Gingerbread House Competition and Exhibit are now being accepted! All ages, backgrounds, and professionals are invited to compete in the competition. No experience required. Free to participate.

Open to the Public

NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 30

at The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum located inside the historic de Witt Cottage

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

November 13, 2023

ENTRY DELIVERY DEADLINE

November 19-20, 2023

CATEGORIES

*Child • Youth • Teen • Adult
Restaurant/Business • Baking/Pastry
Student, Professional or Bakery*

PRESENTED BY THE VIRGINIA BEACH RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH COASTAL VIRGINIA MAGAZINE AND THE ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM



For more information or to register, scan the QR code or visit
www.dineinvb.com/events/gingerbread-house



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 Closed
Tuesday: Closed
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: Closed
Wednesday: Closed
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.

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@awhm.org

You can now pay your dues online at 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!

