

The Wildfowler

December 2023

A Publication of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum

Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Member Spotlight

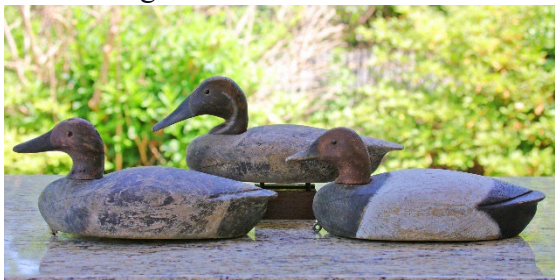
Meet Nathan W. Beck! “The Man Behind the Lens”,

His big, warm smile may seem familiar to you. You may have met him at one of our museum’s member events. Strangers quickly notice his readiness to listen to a great story and make new friends. His humility may have kept you from also recognizing him as a well-traveled editorial photographer, former coach, philanthropist, race car driver, and PGA sports enthusiast. With all his talents, it surprises new friends how he can easily "crack" and land a golf ball perfectly where he aims. His love of various sports and helping others has opened many doors. His coaching years fueled a philanthropic action, and he now proudly serves on several Boards that financially help sports-talented students. Nathan's community leadership and sponsorships have assisted hundreds of local young athletes to be publicly recognized and receive scholarships. Chesapeake Sports Club recently awarded Nathan the prestigious “Man of the Year” award for his well- deserved generous efforts.



So, what is Nathan's Profession?

Nathan is an internationally known editorial and luxury brand photographer published worldwide. During his 28 years of experience behind the lens, he's had the honor to photograph political leaders, including U.S. presidents, vice presidents, and governors as well as film and sports celebrities. He certainly has many entertaining stories to tell.



What makes Nathan get into his creative zone?

As a Lakota Native American of South Dakota, Nathan’s passion is to instinctively capture an image shouting with color, angles, and distinct lighting. His landscape, nature, dance, action, and sports shots make you stop to soak it all in. For example, in our September 2023 issue of the Wildfowler, the carved decoys (Left) beautifully highlighted were Nathan's photographic work. That creative passion for beauty and color takes him all over the world.

This month's adventure was hiking the deserts of the American Southwest to capture stunning images for upcoming travel magazines.



We have great news for you and our region! Starting January 9th, you can study more of Nathan's captured images locally. For two months, his unique photos will be proudly displayed as a journey experience at the Sandler Center (downtown Virginia Beach). Nathan once again shines as "the man behind the lens" with these action images jumping off the canvases and into our minds.

This original exhibit includes over 65 candid shots taking you from the fishing boats, oyster farms, farmers' fields, transportation, to the dining rooms of your favorite Virginia Beach Restaurants. You will marvel at these photos showcasing the intricate behind-the-scenes kitchen ballet that turns raw ingredients into your delicious meal and sparkling beverage. This photographic experience shot by Nathan is entitled "The-Recipe" and is the genius of Martha Davenport (our beloved DeWitt Cottage volunteer and Exec. Dir. Virginia Beach Restaurant Association). <https://www.dineinva.com/the-recipe/>. His photos should educate the world to see Virginia Beach as a culinary destination. The cool part about Nathan's eye is how his shots create lasting memories in our minds. It is as if we are standing next to him momentarily and seeing what he intends us to understand.

To see more of Nathan's photographs, phone 540-292-8489, contact information, or schedule to hire Nathan, please visit his website at www.BeckImage.com

We are very fortunate to have such great volunteers and members like Nathan. So many in fact, we will continue to highlight some of the other members, who continue to contribute so much to our organization and operation of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum.



Above, Nathan proudly displays the prize winning decoy he won in last years Christmas Raffle. Nathan is pictured with his friend and publicist Elizabeth Duncan-Hawker, who contributed to this article.

Upcoming Guild Events

- **deWitt Garden Club** Meets every Monday at 10:00am | volunteers are welcome.
- **Holiday Parade at the Beach** Saturday, December 2nd 5:30pm - 7:30pm Atlantic Avenue from 15th-25th Streets
- **AWHM Christmas Party** Tuesday, December 5th 5:00pm - 9:00pm RSVP to Director@awhm.org
- **Photos with Santa and the Red Truck** Saturday, December 9th 11:00am – 2:00pm
- **AWHM Board Meeting** Tuesday, January 16th 6:00pm at the museum

- **Paint and Learn Workshop at AWHM** Thursday, Jan 18th 5:30pm-7:30pm | \$10 (cost covers decoy and other materials) | All ages are welcome | To register, call (757) 437-8432 (only 4 seats left!)
- **Winter Wildlife Festival Exhibit Hall** Saturday, Jan. 27 | Princess Anne Recreation Center | 10:00am - 3:00pm | Email Director@awhm.org if you would like to volunteer at the AWHM outreach table.



**Christmas
P A R T Y**

Please Join AWHM For A Christmas Party
at the historic deWitt Cottage

DECEMBER

TUESDAY **5** AT 5:00 PM

Please bring an Hors d' oeuvre or dessert to share with other guests.

1113 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Please RSVP by December 3rd [HERE](#)

Christmas party RSVP to 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

Francis William Lawrence (1839-1903)

This month's chronicle reveals an interesting piece of history. The actual brand/stamp on the decoy



*Photo By
Nathan Beck*

pictured above is "LAWRENCE," which we know from the Lighthouse Club Score Book is Francis William Lawrence. Further support is provided by his relationship to the Amory's; specifically, he is first cousin to Marianne (Lawrence) Amory (1843-1882), wife of Robert Amory (1842-1910). Robert



Photo By Nathan Beck

was a brother of Arthur Amory. Lawrence's relationship to the Amory's appears to be the only definitive connection for him to the Lighthouse Club. However, he may also have had a financial relationship with one or more club members. In 1886, he was a founding board member of Brookline

National Bank (Brookline is a community in the Boston metro area) and in 1896 was appointed the bank's president—the bank exists today. He also served as president of the Globe Gas-Light Company of Boston, which contracted with Boston and other New England cities for their street-lighting needs, in addition to selling product to the general public.



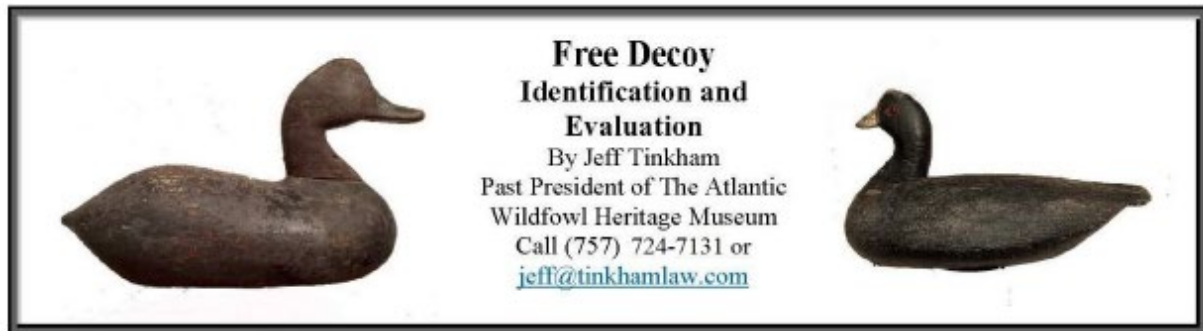
Photo By Nathan Beck

While one suspects that Lawrence earned sufficient wealth from his business interests to support his gilded-age lifestyle, it is likely that he need not have worked at all. He was the grandson of Amos Lawrence (1786-1852), prominent cotton merchant and philanthropist of Boston. When Amos passed away, he left a fortune of over \$8 million, worth about \$250 million in today's dollars. Amos's brother and business partner, Abbot Lawrence, also was involved in the railroad business, was twice elected to Congress, and was the Vice-Presidential candidate in 1848. He declined President Zachary Taylor's offers to be Secretary of the Navy and then Interior, but he did agree to serve as Minister to Great Britain in 1849. (In an interesting aside, one of his daughters married into the Rotch family, which we learned earlier inter-married with the Rodmans.) Amos and Abbot were sons of Samuel Lawrence, who served in the Continental Army, fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill, and became Adjutant to General Sullivan. This likely explains why Amos provided funding for the Bunker Hill Monument.

Delving further into the Lawrence family history, we learn that Francis's uncle, Amos Adams Lawrence (a son of the aforementioned Amos Lawrence) lived a prominent and interesting life. Amos Adams was the brother of William Richards Lawrence, Francis's father. Amos Adams Lawrence was also the father of Robert Amory's wife (recall that Robert was Arthur's brother), Marianne Appleton (Lawrence) Amory, obviously making Amos Adams Robert Amory's father-in-law. Amos Adams was also the father of Susan Mason (Lawrence) Loring, who married William Caleb Loring, another Lighthouse Club member. Mr. Loring was appointed an Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, replacing Oliver Wendell Holmes when he became a United States Supreme Court Chief Justice. But far more interesting is Amos Adams Lawrence's involvement in philanthropy and the politics of his time. He was an ardent abolitionist and strong supporter of a free Kansas following Congress's adoption of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854. He contributed money to finance the migration of like-minded abolitionist New Englanders to Kansas to help ensure it would be admitted to the Union as a "free state," and donated funds to establish a community and school in the new state—the community, Lawrence, Kansas, was named after him and the school is today's University of Kansas. In addition to money, however, Amos Adams also provided firearms to enable his abolitionist immigrants to resist Kansas becoming a slave state. The term "Bloody Kansas" became the result of his arming those immigrants. Amos Adams' politics and station in society also led him to communicate regularly with gentlemen who were or were to become U.S. Presidents: Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Pierce, Andrew Johnson, and Theodore Roosevelt. He also was a significant financial donor throughout his adult life to Harvard and communicated over the years with a number of the school's presidents, to include Josiah Quincy who reportedly suggested to Amos Adams' father that perhaps Amos Adams, who at the time was struggling academically, wasn't quite ready for college.

Coming to maturity during the waning years of the Civil War, our Francis William Lawrence appears to have been just an apolitical Gilded Age sportsman whose generational wealth afforded him the luxury of a lavish lifestyle, to include frequent sojourns to the Lighthouse Club to hunt ducks and hob nob with his fellow Boston Brahmins.

Larry Davenport and Mark Cromwell



From The Museum Director

Dear Friends,

I wanted to share a heartwarming story with you. Just last week, my almost 7-year-old received an incredible gift from the talented carver, Ed Morrison. Every Wednesday, Ed comes to the museum and demonstrates his craft alongside other skilled carvers like George, Roy, Jamie, John, and Pete. A few months ago, Ed asked me about my child's interests, and when I mentioned skateboarding, he went above and beyond. Now, my little one is the proud owner of a hand-carved wooden Santa on a skateboard! When Blake received this thoughtful present, he exclaimed, "Mom, this is so special! I promise to take really good care of it." Ed, thank you for creating such a memorable gift during this season of giving.

Speaking of meaningful gifts, I would love to hear about any special presents you've received or plan to give to someone dear to you this holiday season. It could be as simple as the gift of time. I'm excited to invite all of you to our upcoming Christmas party next week. Please don't forget to RSVP using this link or by emailing Director@awhm.org
Wishing you all a safe and joyous holiday season!

With warm regards,
Emily

Renew your membership online at www.awhm.org or, text WILDFOWL to 44-321
With your support, we can continue to work to protect our natural resources, preserve the legacy of wildfowling, promote environmental education, history and the arts through a variety of events and community partnerships.

Memberships run for 12 consecutive months from the date annual dues are paid.

2023 MEMBERSHIP

\$35/YR INDIVIDUAL \$50/FAMILY

\$100/YR BRONZE \$200/YR SILVER

\$500/YR GOLD \$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

Thank you for your support!

AWHM Board of Directors Nominees 2024 Officers

President – Aimee Rhodes

Vice President – Jason Seward

Secretary – Parke Atkinson

Treasurer – Larry Davenport

