



## *The Wildfowler*

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

**March 2024**

### Upcoming Events

#### Back Bay Knotts Island Waterfowl Festival

**Date/Time:** Friday March 8th 5pm - 8pm and Saturday, March 9th 9am to 4pm

**Location:** Creeds Ruritan Club 1057 Princess Anne Rd Virginia Beach, VA 23457

**Cost:** Admission is \$5 per adult and children under 14 free. Proceeds benefit the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum.

**About:** *This event celebrates the rich waterfowl heritage of this area. There will be about 50 vendors set up in the main barn. Buy, sell, and trade of decoys and other waterfowl related antiques and collectables. Wildlife Artist, Call Makers, Decoy Magazine, Ducks Unlimited, and Delta Waterfowl will also be on hand. We've got vendors coming from as far away as Maryland, Delaware, and South Carolina as well as many from Virginia and North Carolina.*

Interested in volunteering? [Sign Up Here](#)



## AWHM Board of Directors Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, March 19th **Time:** 6pm at AWHM

**Location:** AWHM

## Crafty Reads for Curious Minds: Discover Who's in Our Neighborhood at AWHM

*Family friendly children's program (same time as VBPS Spring Break) Science, Reading and the Arts. Click [here](#) for more information.*

**Date:** Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 9:30am – 11:00am

**Location:** AWHM (de Witt Cottage)

**Who:** All ages welcome! Children aged 2 and under are free.

**Cost:** Don't miss out on this limited opportunity! Reserve your child's spot today for just \$10 per day or \$30 for all 4 days!

[Click Here to Register](#)



## The de Witt Garden Club

Meets every Monday at 10:00am at the museum

## KINDFEST 2024

**Date:** Saturday, April 6th 2024

**Time:** 12:00pm - 5:00pm

**Location:** Mount Trashmore Park 310 Edwin Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

**About:** Support a great cause by attending KindFest 2024, benefiting the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. KindFest was started to help bring Hampton Roads together to support local causes and make our world a kinder place. Now more than ever, it's vital that we band together to help our community thrive.

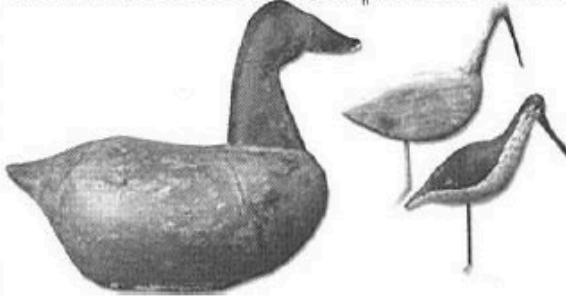
Visit [www.mykindfest.com](http://www.mykindfest.com)



# 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

*By Larry Davenport and Mark Cromwell*

*(Having presented all Lighthouse Club members for whom we have decoys, from this point forward we will discuss the remaining club members of interest.)*

### Augustus Edward Jessup (1851-1929)

Augustus was born in Tuscany, Italy. His father, Alfred duPont Jessup (named after Alfred duPont, family friend and president of duPont, Inc.) brought him to the U.S. as a young adult. Alfred made their home in Newport, RI, gilded-age playground of the rich and famous, to increase Augustus's chances of marrying well. However, Augustus did not find his spouse in Newport. Instead, he married Lady Mildred Bowes-Lyon. Lady Mildred was the aunt of Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (1900-2002), wife and Queen Consort to King George VI (1895-1952) of England. Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon was the mother—the “Queen Mum”—of recently deceased Queen Elizabeth II. Augustus furthered his fortune through the family business, the Jessup and Moore Paper Company originally located in Philadelphia. His father had developed an improved technique for making banknote paper, which enabled the printing company to garner many government contracts—literally and figuratively, the company made copious amounts of money. His

father then opened a printing facility in Massachusetts. Augustus and Lady Mildred spent a considerable portion of their adult lives hanging out with the royals in Europe, where they were active in the arts. Nevertheless, Augustus found time to hunt waterfowl at the Lighthouse Club.

## *From The President*

Happy March Members,

We have a fantastic lineup of events to support the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum! The Annual Back Bay & Knots Island Waterfowl Festival is this Friday from 5pm - 8pm and Saturday from 9am - 4pm at the Creeds Ruritan Club at 1057 Princess Anne Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23457, what a great opportunity to celebrate the area's rich waterfowl heritage while also contributing to a good cause. It's wonderful to hear that the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum is benefiting from a portion of the proceeds.

Also, KindFest on April 6, 2024, at the Mt. Trashmore stage area for a family fun event for a good cause as well, especially with beer proceeds going entirely to support the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum.

It's fantastic that the new director, Emily Bodsford, is actively working on filling up the event calendar and promoting these events on social media platforms. Plus, having dates available for venue rentals opens opportunities for various occasions, from weddings to company events.

I hope these events are successful and help raise awareness and support for the museum!

Respectfully,

Aimee Rhodes

President, AWHM

**Free Decoy  
Identification and  
Evaluation**  
By Jeff Tinkham  
Past President of The Atlantic  
Wildfowl Heritage Museum  
Call (757) 724-7131 or  
[jeff@tinkhamlaw.com](mailto:jeff@tinkhamlaw.com)



## Photos captured by Patrick "Buzz" Hayes

A big shoutout to Patrick "Buzz" Hayes for beautifully capturing moments of Mark McNair, a renowned decoy carver and collector from the Eastern Shore, as he showcased his work at last month's Cocktail Party & AWHM Benefit hosted by Mark and Margie Cromwell.

Buzz, a passionate local photographer, is excited to increase his engagement with the museum. Growing up along the Atlantic Flyway, from Chesapeake Bay to Currituck Sound, Buzz cultivated his passion for the outdoors, eventually transitioning into a career in photography and design. Currently working as a Brand Integrity and Imagery specialist, Buzz's background in hunting, fishing, and artistry has profoundly influenced his journey. After serving as a paratrooper in the U.S. army, Buzz pursued art and design at Old Dominion University. With over two decades as a successful photographer and designer, Buzz's enduring passion for the outdoors drives him to capture the next award-winning shot. We are thrilled to incorporate Buzz's work in our museum's gift shop this Spring and deeply appreciate his volunteer contributions to the museum.

Explore his portfolio at <https://buzzhayesphotography.photoshelter.com/index> and connect with Buzz on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)

# Interested in Volunteering?

## AWHM Volunteer Opportunities

- **Building and Grounds Volunteers**

- **de Witt Garden Club**

Spring is just around the corner, and we're excited to invite gardening enthusiasts to join our garden club! Join us every Monday at 10am at the historic de Witt cottage for a blooming good time! 🌸 🌿 Email

Director@awhm.org

- **Library:** We are looking for a volunteer or intern to assist with organizing books and other publications that are currently being stored in the library and in the boathouse.

- **Docent/Gallery Guide:** Help to facilitate tours for the general public.

[Sign Up Here](#)

### Outreach and Events Volunteers

- Assist with greeting visitors, providing information and manning the AWHM Membership tables and more.

[Sign Up Here](#)

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**Renew your Membership or Become a Member of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild - Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum (2024 - 2025)**

### AWHM Membership Form

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_



STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT PAID: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

***Become a recurring donor:***

Recurring Monthly Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_

***One Time Donation:***

\$35 INDIVIDUAL

\$50 FAMILY

\$100 BRONZE

\$250 SILVER

\$500 GOLD

\$1,000 PRESIDENTS CIRCLE

Other Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum**

1113 Atlantic Avenue Virginia Beach, VA 23451

To pay by credit card, please visit [www.awhm.org](http://www.awhm.org) or click on the donate button below or

**text-to-give:** text WILDFOWL to 44-321

***Thank you for your support!***

## Donate

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.

**Please keep in mind that each dollar we receive plays a crucial role in maintaining the museum's operations.**



Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, 1113 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23451, 757-437-8432

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