

THE WILDFOWLER

SPRING 2015

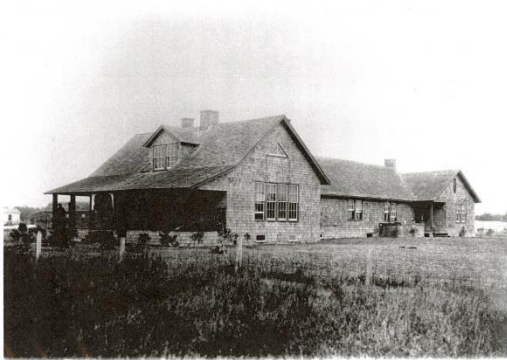
A PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM AND THE BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

The False Cape Gunning Club: Part Five in a series of OUR HERITAGE IS OUR LEGACY

From the archives of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, Virginia Beach Land Records and Gun Clubs and Decoys of Back Bay & Currituck Sound, Archie Johnson and Bud Coppedge, Curbac Press, 1991

Photo from the Edgar T. Brown Collection, Virginia Beach Public Library

One hundred ten years ago, along Virginia's Outer Banks [we really have some!], a group of Bostonians were granted a charter for an indeterminate amount of acreage to establish the False Cape Gun Club. The clubhouse was located at Spitt Point in what is now False Cape State Park. The wealthy Boston gentlemen enjoyed many successful wildfowling seasons. In the offseason, they would take target practice at the abundant shorebirds. They built this clubhouse shortly after their charter was granted in 1905.



Part of the historical significance of this club has to do with who those Bostonians were. George Lyman was named as the President. The Lyman family was considered to be a part of the "Boston Brahmin", which simply means the family wielded much influence beyond Boston's borders, as well as had the means to enjoy the finer things in life, one of which, for George, was the sporting life of a wildfowler.

The men who established the False Cape Gunning Club were more than men of means, they were also dedicated conservationists, before that term was used. Interestingly, in the 1920's, the Mason Decoy Factory used this club as a "testing" ground for many oversized decoys [premier grade]-now in auctions with the FCGC stamp on them. Club history has the owner of the Mason Decoy Factory as more than an occasional hunting guest. While these oversized decoys were largely ineffective, it is interesting to know that our region's wildfowling clubs had a national impact on the development of certain types of manufactured decoys.

In 1935, ownership of the Club reverted to a group of Norfolk businessmen, headed by Reuben F. Trant. With new ownership came a new name-the False Cape Gunning Corporation. By 1939, many wildfowlers in the region were losing their properties/charters to the new wildlife refuge. Thus in 1939, the False Cape Gunning Corporation was bought by Colonel Samuel Slover, one of Norfolk's most influential businessmen and a local media magnate who owned/published the *Virginian Pilot and Ledger Dispatch*, as well as a former mayor of Norfolk and one of the financiers of Virginia Beach's Cavalier Hotel. Upon Colonel Slover's death in 1959, the property was inherited by Slover's nephew, Frank A. Batten, Sr. who hunted the property until the Commonwealth of Virginia acquired it for the establishment of False Cape State Park. It would seem that this Club had an illustrious history with some of the nation's and Hampton Roads regions' most influential people-all of whom truly enjoyed Virginia's Outer Banks...



Oversized Mason Redhead

WILDFOWL GUILD



Home of Back Bay Wildfowl Guild, Inc.

This Monday the meeting will be a dinner meeting at the Lucky Oyster Restaurant. In addition to good food and fellowship there will be raffles for baskets and other items to serve as a fund raiser for the Guild.

This is an election year for the Guild officers and board. Mr. Walsh will serve as the nominating chairman with Mr. Tinkham and Mr. Morrison assisting him. Anyone wishing to serve, please let one of them know.

Progress is being made of the September 14 event. Clark is the contact person if you want more info or wish to help with this event.

There is a need for volunteers to serve on an on call basis in the museum so that the Director can do community outreach and other business away from the museum.

Thank you,

Ira Abbott

President, Back Bay Wildfowl Guild



Many thanks to Ms. Nancy Lekberg and Ms. Ann Smith for their work in bringing the cottage property to new spring beauty!!!

FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Spring has sprung and we are looking forward to a fantastic summer. If the last two years are any indication, we should have record setting numbers of visitors to the museum. Preparations for our September celebration are coming along. We will need some of you to help by being *docents/hosts/hostesses* for the day. For all you carvers-we'd like to have as many of you here as possible for demonstrations on the lawn [under tents]. We have no idea how many people [visitors] to expect, but hopefully we will have a great crowd. On another note, our new website [www.atwildfowl.org] is up and running. I would encourage all of you to go and take a look. Any constructive comments you may have regarding the website will be willingly accepted. I am still working on the online store, but hope that will be operational no later than the end of June. The website will be a work in progress, but I have had some positive feedback from members in our community.

I'd like to thank Ms. Anne Henry for a really good suggestion regarding the newsletter. I have found that very often other people have good ideas about which I hadn't thought, so Anne THANK YOU.

The museum exhibits will be changed out on 14 May 2015. We already have new cabinets with some really cool model boats on exhibit-from Bill and Alice Walsh and Gentry and Marian Childress. The upcoming exhibits will feature decoys [could you have guessed?] the contemporary exhibit will feature works from members of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild. The carving room's cabinet will also feature works of Guild members -those who spend much of their time carving in the carving room [with my eternal gratitude].

In closing, I would again stress that I'd like to hear from you regarding how we can do things better and/or more effectively at the museum. I'd also like to encourage you to share the newsletter with your friends. Invite someone to be a member of the Guild. New members bring new perspectives and we should all be able to learn!

Best, *Clark*



North Carolina native Ed Morrison carves at the Museum every Wednesday he is in town. A U.S. Army veteran, Ed worked for Bell Labs for 25 years and then for

Lockheed Martin [and its various predecessors] from which he retired. Ed and Glenda, his patient and loving wife, moved to Virginia Beach in 1974. They raised three children who gave them 5 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

When asked what got him interested in carving, Ed simply replies, "Glenda." He was recovering from surgery when she brought him a book and a knife. [Side note: she didn't throw the book at him or use the knife ON him!]

Ed still carves Santa Claus figures, but he really enjoys carving working decoys and an occasional decorative piece. In the early 1990's Ed took a class with Charlie Seidel and his decoy carving "period" started. Ed claims that carving is the soncd most fasxinating thing he can do alone He is fascinated by bringing personality out of the wood he carves and ALWAYS carves his Santa's face first, so Santa can watch! His interest in decoys is due to the history of decoys themselves.

Ed is an active carving teacher, traveling in Virginia and North Carolina to instruct novice and veteran carvers in 7 different classes-6 decoy classes and 1 Santa class. His first word to them is to enjoy what they're doing. His second emphasis: "PRACTICE PAINTING" – carving is the easy part-the painting is the "trick". According to Ed, decoy carving is important because it is keeping this truly American craft alive. His two favorite pieces are pictured below. Ed and Glenda are active members of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild. Ed currently serves on the Board of Directors, as well as dedicating his Wednesdays to our Museum guests. We thank both Ed and Glenda for their time, friendship and sharing their talents.



Ed's Osprey



Ed's Pintail

DONATIONS RECEIVED

In Memory of **From**
 C.J. Burns Tom and Karen Beatty
Donation made prior to last newsletter publication

General/In-Kind Donations

Robert and Margo Berg James Best
 Robert and Caroline Jacobsen Mable Clair Young
 Will Evans Virginia Association of Parks
 Terri Denton (False Cape State Park)
 Curtis Jester

Please know your tax deductible donations are most appreciated and always welcome! FEIN: 51-0252674

UPCOMING BBWG/AWHM EVENTS

MAY 2015

- Monday 5/4: 6:30 PM LUCKY OYSTER FUNDRAISER
- Thursday 5/14: 4:30 PM Exhibit Changeout
- Monday 5/18: 6:00 PM Anniversary Committee Meeting
- 7:00 PM BBWG Directors' Meeting at Museum

**MUSEUM BEGINS MONDAY OPENING ON
 MEMORIAL DAY – 5/25/15**

JUNE 2015

- Monday 6/1: Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Meeting
- 6:15 PM – Social
- 7:00 PM – Meeting – Speaker TBA
- Monday 6/15: BBWG Board of Directors Meeting
- 7:00 PM

GOING DEEP

All of this continent's waterfowl can dive, but some species are much better at it than others. The best diver of all waterfowl is the long-tailed duck (formerly oldsquaw). More than 80 of the birds were reportedly caught in fishing nets off Wolfe Island, Lake Ontario, at a depth of 240 feet. The champion diver in the bird world is the emperor penguin, which has been recorded at the incredible depth of 1,770 feet.



OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

MAY**15-16**

Chesapeake Bay Waterfowl Arts Show to be held at the St. Mary's Fairgrounds in Leonardtown, Maryland. Contact Burkey Boggs (301) 934-1366 or Chad Tragakis (703) 912-2949, chad.tragakis@gmail.com.

29-30

Sportsman's Auction by Barfield's Auction to be held at their facility in Hallwood, Virginia. Contact: Zeb Barfield at (757) 824-4698 or zeb@zebsauctions.com.

JUNE

5-6 2nd annual North Central Missouri Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Show to be held at the Litton AG Campus, Jenkins Expo Center in Chillicothe, Missouri. Contact: Scott Luetticke (660) 247-3150 or Ron Willis (660) 973-6232.

JULY

17-18: 47th annual Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sporting Collectibles Show to be held at the Cerow Arena in Clayton, New York. Contact: Thousand Islands Museum at (315) 686-5794 or visit www.timuseum.org.

24-25: The 2015 "Sporting Sale" by Copley Fine Art Auctions to be held at the Radisson Hotel in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Contact: Copley Fine Art Auctions at (617) 536-0030 or visit www.copleyart.com.

26-27 Annual summer decoy auction by Decoys Unlimited to be held at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Contact: Decoys Unlimited at (508) 362-2766 or visit www.decoysunlimitedinc.net.

28-29 Annual summer decoy auction by Guyette & Deeter to be held at the Sheraton Harborside Resort in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Contact: Guyette & Deeter at (410) 745-0485 or visit www.guyetteanddeeter.com.

BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Ira Abbott, President	Ken Wilson, Vice President
Jim Mehne, Secretary	Roy Carlson, Treasurer
Kelly Bridgman	Ed Morrison
Fletcher Bryant	Werner Seibel
Gentry Childress	Jeff Tinkham
Wayne Jarman	Herb Videll
	William Walsh, Jr.

MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Jeff Tinkham, Chair	
Bud Coppedge	Archie Johnson
Wayne Jarman	William Walsh, Jr.

FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE

Roy Carlson	Ed Morrison
Werner Seibel	Herb Videll

ANNIVERSARY STEERING COMMITTEE

Wayne Jarman	Ed Morrison
Clark Mandigo	Jeff Tinkham
Herb Verhaagen	Herb Videll

MUSEUM CARVERS

Monday [May-Sept]	Ben Purvis?
Tuesday: a.m.	Pete DiPietro
p.m.	Bud Coppedge
Wednesday:	Roy Carlson
	Ed Morrison Herb Videll
Thursday: [inside]	Hank Grigolite
	"The Boathouse Boys" Carving Club:
	Al, Jamie, John & Pete
Friday:	Gary Holt, Bill Evans, Will Evans, Dave Perkins
Saturday:	Gentry Childress
2 nd Saturday	Roger Lee
Sunday:	Herb Verhaagen

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Monday: [Memorial Day-Sept.]	OPEN
Tuesday:	Bob Bishop 1p-5p
Wednesday:	Archie Johnson 10a-2p
Thursday	Bill Evans 10a-2p
Friday:	OPEN
Saturday:	OPEN
Sunday:	OPEN
Museum Grounds	Nancy Lekberg

MUSEUM STAFF

Clark Mandigo, Director	Ann Smith, Gift Shop Manager
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MUSEUM CONTACT INFORMATION

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