

THE WILDFOWLER

MARCH 2020

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

Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Memories

Sebastian “Pete” DiPietro

September 25, 1939 – January 6, 2020



A resident of Norfolk, Virginia, Pete DiPietro was born in Brooklyn, New York. Following high school he joined the United States Navy where he would retire at E7/Chief Petty Officer serving as a hull technician. Pete was a member of the Freemasons, a devout member of Christ Lutheran Church for 40 years and a member of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild. He volunteered his carving skills at The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum on Tuesdays and taught carving classes to seniors at the Norfolk Senior Center. He also enjoyed woodworking in his free time.

Pete was always proud to say he was a “self-taught” wood carver. He had a great personality and loved to perform his woodcarving skills for the visitors to the museum. He always had a humorous story for every situation no matter what it was. He would always start his story with “I had a friend of mine.” I always suspected that many of the stories were things that Pete had probably done himself.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 59 years, Betty DiPietro; his daughter, Tammy Nardo; his son, Luke DiPietro; his grandchildren, David Nardo, Tamara Nardo, Michael Nardo, and Christine DiPietro; his great grandchildren, Beau Nardo and Ava Nardo; his sister, Connie Labadessa; and an extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Jennie and Carmine DiPietro; and his granddaughter, Julie M. Nardo.





Upcoming Guild Events:

03/14/2020 Back Bay-Knotts Island Waterfowl Festival
Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm
Creeds Ruritan Barn 1057 Princess Anne Rd

03/21/2020 Ruritan Barbeque and Craft Fair
Saturday 11:00am-6:00pm
Creeds Ruritan Barn 1057 Princess Anne Rd

We need Volunteers

03/24/2020: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

04/04/2020 Gathering of The Guilds
Historic Frances Land House
3131 Virginia Beach blvd
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

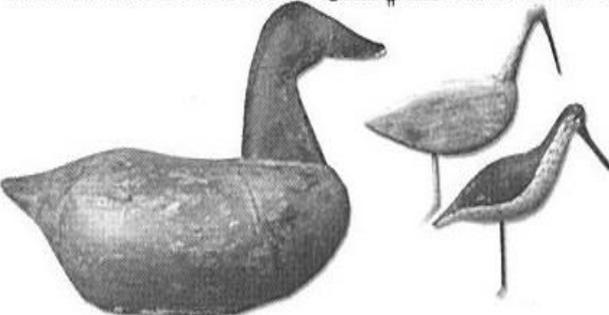
**Need Volunteers to man table
And Carving demonstration**

04/07/2020 Dine Out for The de Witt
5:30pm – 8:30pm The Pub Restaurant
1001 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, VA

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

Joe Perry Redhead Decoy



Joseph "Joe" Dempsey Perry, March 9, 1893- January 25, 1981

Son of William Thomas Perry of Kitty Hawk, NC. His family members were fishermen and boat builders and also hunting guides or market hunters.

Joe Perry was the foremost waterman in the family. Joe had three brothers, Colon, Marvin & Richard, who hunted together. Only Joe made the decoys and repaired them. In the 1920's and 30's, the Perry's hunting camp and cabin was located in Kitty Hawk, NC at the end of Poor Ridge Landing. This camp is where they kept their hunting boats and decoys.

Joe's brother, Colon, worked for Edward Knight, the owner of The Whalehead Club in Corolla, NC. Joe's decoys were chopped out with a hatchet and finished with a spoke shave and draw knife.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends of the AWHM,

While many of my messages feature the de Witt cottage and operations as my focus, my communication with you this month revolves around our guild.

Our last guild meeting was hands down my favorite since joining. There was no guest speaker or striking presentation. It was simply a show and tell where members brought whatever they felt inclined to share. I learned an incredible amount of new information, met some wonderful new friends, connected with some beautiful old ones (Jamie Champe), and thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it. It was a reminder of just how lucky (Cheesy St. Patrick's Day plug) we are to have our beloved guild and sparked a desire to get back to our roots, coming together more often as a guild. Many of you have expressed the same feeling to me.

To accommodate this desire, we will be changing our guild meeting format. Beginning in June, we will meet every other month as a guild. More information on date, time, and theme to come.

Furthermore, to enhance participation and attendance at guild meetings, we will introduce an incentive program for attendance. Various prizes and other giveaways will be offered throughout the year. For each guild meeting attended, your chances to win increase.

With all that has changed in the last year and more necessary changes ahead, one thing will always remain the same; our guild. It's time to #rebuildtheguild.

I hope to see you all on Tuesday, April 7th for our next installment of Dine-out for De Witt at the Beach Pub on Laskin Road. Bring your friends and your enemies. It's a great money making opportunity for our organization.

As always, I welcome your feedback, comments and questions, HUDSONOUTDOORS@GMAIL.COM

Cheers!
Jason Seward

Page | 3



	<p align="center">Free Decoy Identification and Evaluation</p>	
<p align="center">By Jeff Tinkham Past President of The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum Call (757) 721-7131 or jeff@tinkhamlaw.com</p>		

FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

I want to thank everyone who attended “Dine out for The de Witt” Tuesday night February 11th at Surfrider Seafood Restaurant, 1375 Oceana Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA. We only had approximately 30 people in for dinner that would not have normally been there on a Tuesday night. We have now had poor showings for our first two “Dine Outs” of 2019. Attendance is down by about 50%. Great job for those of you that have participated so far! We have two more really great restaurants to “Dine Out” in this year. On April 7, 2020, we will “Dine Out” at The Pub Restaurant at 1001 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, VA. 23451 from 5:30pm until 8:30pm. We will then close out our “Dine Out” events with our Annual Lucky Oyster Celebration Dinner on Tuesday, May 5, 2020.

This is a really great way for our museum to raise \$1000 to \$2000 dollars between Christmas and Memorial Day! It takes virtually no effort on your part; other than to get up off the couch and go to dinner! You are going to eat dinner anyway and your spouse would love to get out of the kitchen! Ask your friends who have been to the last two restaurants; it’s been fun! We try to pick locations that are unique and memorable. You enjoy a delicious dinner with good friends and provide a means of much needed support for your museum. It is also a great way to introduce some new people to the museum and discuss membership over dinner. If you haven’t participated yet, what’s holding you back?

Lastly I just want to say Thank God for Martha Davenport, our new Volunteer Event Coordinator; you will understand more clearly when you read her message that follows.



From the Events Desk

With a snap of the fingers, February is a distant memory. We have been very busy at the Museum with tours. The Gardens are beginning to awaken from their winter slumber and ready themselves for Spring. The daffodils in their various colors of yellow and white are starting to spring up from the dirt and bloom. The yellow bearded iris never stopped blooming over the winter. City Landscape Services will begin the rehab of the gardens in a couple of weeks. I am excited to announce that for the first time (that I know of), the de Witt Cottage will be listed in the Historic Virginia Beach Garden Tour brochure. Over 1,500 copies of this brochure will be printed and distributed. It is my hope that this will introduce new visitors to our Museum and Gardens. If you have a chance, stop by, sit a spell and let the gardens delight you in their color and small inhabitants. Don’t forget to check out our beautiful gift shop too.



UPCOMING EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Mark your calendars with these upcoming events and happenings. Events are located at the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum/Historic de Witt Cottage, unless otherwise noted.

MARCH

- 17 Virginia Tourism Corporation mini-trade show at the Virginia Aquarium.
TBA The original artwork of the **2020 Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp** will be on display at the Museum, in partnership with the Virginia Beach Ducks Unlimited Chapter.
28 The Cottage will be a start and end stop for a **BIG** beach cleanup in conjunction with the 24 Hours of Open! VB – City of Virginia Beach’s kickoff tourism campaign.

APRIL

- 7 **Dine Out for de Witt**, The Pub, 5:30-8:00 pm
20-27 **Something in the Water**, The Museum and Cottage will be included in the footprint of this year’s festival.

MAY

- 1 **Under the stars Friday Movie Event** – in conjunction with the Surfrider Foundation, TBA
5 **Dine Out for de Witt**, Lucky Oyster, 5:30-8:00 pm

JUNE

- 3 **Garden Club Open House**, 11:00 – 3:00 pm, free admission
5 **Under the stars Friday Movie Event** – in conjunction with the Surfrider Foundation, TBA

JULY

- 4 **Fireworks Celebration at the Beach** – Celebrate the 4th as a VIP with the best unobstructed view of the fireworks.
17 **Under the stars Friday Movie Event** – in partnership with the Surfrider Foundation, TBA

AUGUST

- 21 **Under the stars Friday Movie Event** – in partnership with the Surfrider Foundation, TBA

SEPTEMBER

NEPTUNE FESTIVAL WEEKEND

OCTOBER

- 11 **5th Annual Oyster Roast & BBQ** - de Witt Cottage & AWHM Anniversary Celebration
24 **Fall Festival** Who are you going to call? **Ghostbusters!** The mighty ghost catchers will be visiting the Cottage for a fun filled afternoon.

NOVEMBER

- 7 **Gingerbread Competition Extravaganza** begins and will be on exhibit until December 6, 2020

DECEMBER

- 5 **Photos with Santa** 1:00 – 4:00 pm

RENT THE COTTAGE

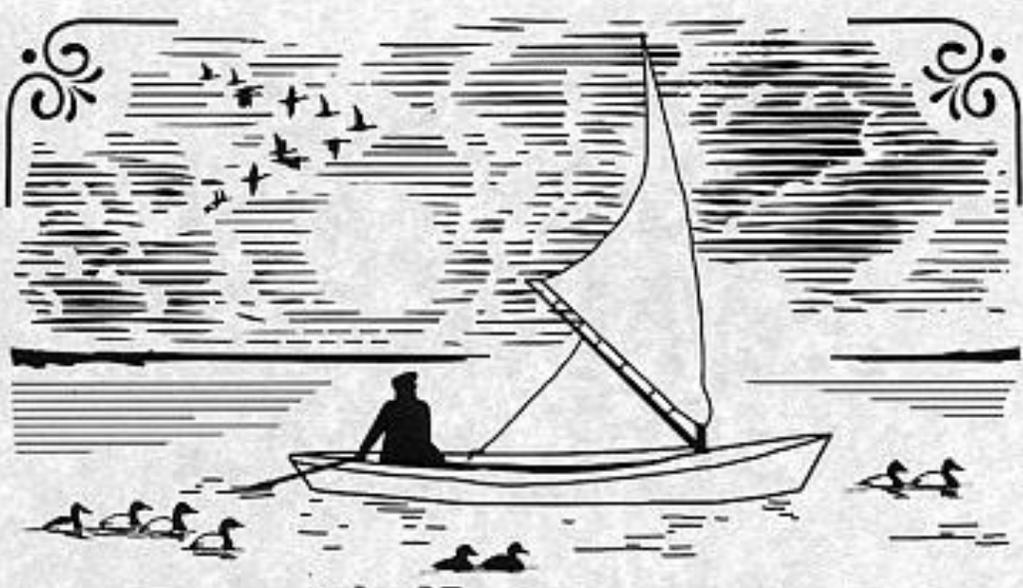
Did you know that the de Witt Cottage is available for rental? We would love to host your upcoming special occasion, community meeting, or social club. Contact Martha Davenport, thedewittcottage@awhm.org for more information.

ONE LAST THOUGHT.....

Don’t forget to like and follow The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum and the Historic de Witt Cottage on Facebook and Instagram.

*“Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn.” —
Lewis Grizzard.
Martha*





BACK BAY
WATERFOWL
FESTIVAL
KNOTT'S ISLAND

MAR. 14th 2020
9AM - 4PM

CREEDS RURITAN CLUB
INQUIRIES
757.663.6970

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA



Duck Dogs

Kyle Wintersteen, Managing Editor, *Delta Waterfowl Magazine*

Today's retriever training literature tends to focus on some rather advanced skills, such as land-water-land retrieves, handling to 200-yard blind falls, and even greater complexities. Certainly these capabilities increase the dog's capacity as a conservation tool, but does the average hunter truly need or desire to reach that level? In my view, a duck dog can be considered perfectly adequate as long as it's proficient with the following basic tasks.



Retrieves Seen, Marked Falls

If a retriever sees a bird smack the water's surface, then he ought to go get it. This is the most basic tenet of retriever proficiency. In time, through training and hunting experience, most dogs worth their salt learn to mark and remember several seen falls at once. Chessies notoriously excel in this memory exercise.

Hunts "Dead"

Ideally every retriever should learn to take a line and hand signals from his master toward blind (unseen) falls. It's the fastest route to recovering birds and resuming the hunt. Yet dogs lacking this skill might still be considered adequate, as long they can be led to the area of the fallen bird and commanded to "hunt dead." The drawback to this routine is it consumes time and might allow crippled birds to escape. And if you're in open water, well, fire up the outboard. However, we're adhering to what constitutes an "adequate" duck dog, not a polished one.

Retrieves to Hand

The adequate dog delivers each duck into the hands of his master — or at the very least, into the blind or boat. Ducks dropped halfway to the blind defeat the purpose of sending the dog in the first place. And dropped, crippled birds pose a special issue. Some argue the solution is to "force-fetch" every retriever as a means to circumvent retrieve refusal. I part ways with some very accomplished trainers in this regard: I believe a duck dog can reach adequacy without being force-fetched. As long as the dog loves birds — which should come instinctively — and has positive early experiences with them, in my experience he isn't likely to spit them out prematurely. In fact, many dogs would rather hold onto ducks longer than permitted.

Ignores Decoys

This one might seem obvious, but it's an embarrassing experience for all involved when a duck dog is sent on a retrieve and returns with a decoy. Ensure the dog has retrieved a few bumpers or training birds through a decoy spread prior to hunting season.

Exhibits Moderate Steadiness

What do I mean by "moderate" steadiness? The adequate duck dog has some idea of the concept of steadiness (waiting to retrieve dead ducks until so commanded), but might require reinforcement with a check cord and e-collar. Dogs that frequently break can flare ducks and pose safety issues.

Shows Reasonable Blind Manners

A polished dog shakes off before re-entering the blind, and once commanded "place," promptly relegates himself to his retriever stand or corner of the boat. The adequate dog needs only to avoid annoying fellow hunters and to sit relatively still. Jumping up on hunters, rifling through blind bags and — most especially — knocking over shotguns is unacceptable. As with steadying, a check cord and e-collar can prove useful to reinforce good manners. I've also found that crate-trained dogs take readily to a dog blind. With a modicum of training, they accept the familiar structure as their "place."



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jason Seward, President Parke Atkinson, Vice President
Jim Mehne, Secretary Larry Davenport, Treasurer
Jim Briggs Mark Cromwell
George Powell Tom Richards
Jeff Tinkham William Walsh, Jr., Curator
Fletcher Bryant, President Emeritus

MUSEUM CARVERS

Monday Elaine Polizos
Tuesday: Open
Wednesday: Roy Carlson & Ed Morrison
Thursday: Open
"The Boathouse Boys" Carving Club: Al, Jamie, John, Pete
Friday: Susan Moritz
Saturday: Open
Sunday: Open

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Wednesday: OPEN
Thursday Joe Leo 10:00am-2:00pm
Friday: OPEN
Saturday: OPEN
Sunday: OPEN
Museum Grounds: Jacky Richards, Martha Davenport,
Nancy Lekberg Cheryl Garvey, Jan McGuire, Evie Fetterolf,
Mary Ann Biagetti, Tom Richards

MUSEUM STAFF

Lynn Hightower, Director
Martha Davenport, Events Coordinator

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@atwildfowl.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 paid your 2020 dues, please give serious consideration to sending them into the museum right away. Beginning March 1, 2020, any listed member who has not paid their dues will receive an invoice from the museum director requesting payment of their annual dues

2020 DUES

\$35/YR INDIVIDUAL
\$100/YR BRONZE
\$500/YR GOLD

\$50/FAMILY
\$200/YR SILVER
\$1,000/YR PRESIDENTS CIRCLE



**BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD
2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

NAME: _____ AMOUNT PAID _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ [CELL] _____

January 1, 2020 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!

