

THE WILDFOWLER

OCTOBER 2016

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

Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Memories *Emma Meehan*

Lynn Hightower

From the archives of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, [History of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild and Mid-Atlantic Wildfowl Festival](#) by Emma Meehan, and [Past editions of The Wildfowler](#),

Emma was the first person I met when I attended my first Back Bay Wildfowl Guild meeting in 1979. She came up to me as I entered the door of the meeting room at the Veterans of Foreign Wars building on London Bridge Road. She took extra care to make sure that I felt welcome and comfortable. The next thing I knew she had me bundling, folding, and packing burlap and table cloths for the upcoming Mid-Atlantic Wildfowl Festival. Emma was a quiet and unassuming person, an original gentle soul. But you couldn't let her easygoing personality lull you into a sense of complacency. If you didn't follow her instructions precisely in whatever task you were performing, you were subject to complete another orientation class with much clearer expectations. Rumor has it that she actually made some festival vendors cry because they were not following the rules. (unable to substantiate)



Emma and Dick Meehan moved here from Long Island, NY. They were both employed and met each other while working for Grumman Aerospace Industries. Dick held the title of Treasurer for the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild for about ten years. Emma held numerous positions including secretary and director; but, her favorite job in the guild was historian. In 1985 she published the [History of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild and Mid-Atlantic Wildfowl Festival](#). In this book are the names of everyone who had contributed to the success of the Guild and Mid-Atlantic Wildfowl Show. The foreword of her book reads as follows:

“In the beginning there was an organization and it was a bit difficult to know where one began and the other stopped! Most of the officers were officers in both organizations and in those days everyone worked! I tried to compile a history of both organizations, mostly through people, i.e. the committees, and the people who helped do the work. When you consider that 17 people started the first Mid-Atlantic Wildfowl Festival and made all of \$2,000.00 after expenses, “little oaks from mighty acorns do grow!” If there are errors or someone forgotten, we are sorry and hope to repair the damage in a later edition. I especially want to thank my husband, Dick for his kindness and patience in letting me compile this history.”

Emma Meehan, Historian.

Emma Meehan is the only member to date to be awarded a lifetime membership in the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild, in recognition of her commitment and service to the organization. Emma was not a carver; but she was a very

good artist. She always had a space at the Virginia Beach Boardwalk Art Show. She was very fair skin so she always wore long sleeves and a big hat (with big flowers) when she was in the sun. You could always find her next to her tent in a jacket with a big smile. She specialized in landscapes and still life. She loved flowers and created hundreds of miniature paintings in elaborate frames. For those of you that did not know Emma, you missed knowing a gentle and compassionate woman. She will leave a lasting, loving memory for those who were fortunate to have met and worked with her.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Fall season is upon us, and that means that our monthly membership meetings have begun. Our September meeting featured our new Museum Director, Lynn Hightower, who discussed his vision and plans for the museum, guild and cottage. Lynn is a high energy individual who has longstanding ties to the guild. He has previously served on our board and was an active Mid-Atlantic Waterfowl Show volunteer.

Our big BBQ fundraiser; which was cancelled due to Hurricane Matthew will now take place at Al and Ann Henley's property; 3136 Colechester Road, Virginia Beach, VA on October 30, 2016. The Henley's have invested a great deal of time and effort into this event, even agreeing to cook all of the food for the 200 plus ticket holders! We hope that this will become an annual event to raise funds to support the museum's mission while also having some fun.

We look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings which occur at the de Witt cottage on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30.

Jeff Tinkham



Upcoming Guild Events:

10/18/2016: Board Meeting [at Museum]

10/30/2016: BBQ Fundraiser by the Henley's 3136 Colechester Road, Va Beach 2345612:00-5:00pm No Pets Please! bring a chair, BYOB

11/1/2016: Guild Meeting [at Museum] Our Speaker will be Tommy "White Hawk" White. He is a certified Cherokee Indian Medicine Man; He also rescues injured raptors and shore birds. His organization is Alton's Keep. Social Time:6:30 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

11/15/2016: Board Meeting [at Museum]

CHRISTMAS PARTY INFORMATION

We are working on tying down the date and location for this year's Christmas party. More information will follow in the November edition of the Wildfowler

FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR



On Saturday September 24, 2016 the Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau taped video footage and interviewed Jeff and Spencer Tinkham at the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. The Bureau intends to incorporate the museum, Spencer's carvings and Back Bay into a promotional video about the city. The upcoming video is featuring the history of birding and wildfowl in Virginia Beach. Jeff and Spencer talked about the history of the museum, the tradition of carving decoys, and the importance of waterfowl in the Virginia Beach area. Spencer took the film crew for a joy ride on Back Bay to explore some duck blinds later in the day. Jeff and Spencer are doing everything they can to promote our little hidden ocean front gem. The video is set to be published in late October, as part of the blog: thedailylifevb.visitingvirginiabeach.com .

I would like to thank Steven and Lori Bagley for their efforts in cleaning up our gardens the two weeks before the Neptune Festival. Lori just dropped in one afternoon and introduced herself. She is somehow related to the Williams, Carroll and Fentress carvers we have displayed in our hunting lodge room. Lori showed up the next day with baskets of flowers that she personally planted in our beds around the sculpture and along Atlantic Avenue. Two days later she shows up with an entire crew to clean and plant the boardwalk side of the cottage. If you need landscape work please call Lori or Steven at An Eye For Nature Landscaping. You can contact them to thank them at (757) 491-2635 or by email at eye4nature2000@aol.com. Please let them know how much we appreciate their help.



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Tinkham, President Wayne Jarman, Vice President
Jim Mehne, Secretary Roy Carlson, Treasurer
Fletcher Bryant Werner Seibel
Jamie Champe Herb Videll
Gentry Childress Al Henley
William Walsh, Jr.

MUSEUM CARVERS

Tuesday: a.m. Pete DiPietro
Wednesday: Roy Carlson
 Ed Morrison, Herb Videll
Thursday: [inside] Hank Grigolite
"The Boathouse Boys" Carving Club: Al, Jamie, John & Pete
Friday: Gary Holt
Saturday: Gentry Childress
Sunday: Herb Verhaagen

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Tuesday: Susan VanHook 10a-12p
 Bob Bishop 1p-5p
Wednesday: Archie Johnson 10a-2p
Thursday Joe Leo 10a-2p
Friday: OPEN
Saturday: OPEN
Sunday: OPEN
Museum Grounds Nancy Lekberg

MUSEUM STAFF

Lynn Hightower, Director Ann Smith, Gift Shop Manager

MUSEUM CONTACT INFORMATION

ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM
1113 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Telephone: 757.437.8432
Facsimile: 757.437.9950
Website: www.atwildfowl.org
Email: director@atwildfowl.org

Please understand that we depend on every dollar to operate the museum. If you have not paid your 2016 dues, please give serious consideration to catching up before the end of the year by using the renewal form below. The corporate and sponsor levels are for anyone who wishes to support the Guild and Museum through those amounts. All members are encouraged to give at those levels, if they are able. You may also invite people you know to join us-at whatever level they are able! Please return your form to the Museum as soon as possible.

2016 DUES

\$25/YR INDIVIDUAL

\$35/FAMILY

\$200/YR CORPORATE

\$500/YR SPONSOR



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD 2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____ AMOUNT PAID _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ [CELL] _____

January 1, 2017 will kick 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!