

The Canvasback

Winter 1997
Vol. 6, No. 1

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

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Havre de Grace Decoy Museum



can•vas•back (kan'ves bak'), *n., pl. -backs*, (esp. collectively) - back. 1. A North American wild duck, the male of which has a whitish back and a reddish-brown head and neck. 2. A style of decoy made famous by carvers of the Susquehanna Flats region. 3. A quarterly publication of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.

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FROM THE EDITOR

1997, what will happen this year? Well, for a start the elevator is complete! On some evening news T.V. show, broadcasters predicted what would happen in 1997. A few predictions were that the Orioles would win the series, Chelsea Clinton would do something outrageous, and Kenny Rogers would divorce (again). So let me join in and make my predictions for the Decoy Museum. With the elevator complete, a large donation will be made so that the debt can be paid off, attendance at the Annual Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival will jump past the usual 3,500 visitors, and membership will increase by leaps and bounds.

Well, the staff at the Museum will be working to make these predictions a reality and I hope that the Museum members will help us too. We are always grateful for people spreading the news about the Decoy Museum and the special events. It is the best form of advertising. So together lets make this another great year.

Thanks for supporting the Decoy Museum in 1996, and keep it up in 1997!

Mary Jo Murphy

ON THE COVER

A pancake canvasback, made by Vernon Bryant, enjoys the crisp, cold air. Photo by Mary Jo Murphy.

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The Canvasback

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum
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*From
the
President*



Dear Museum Member,

Thanks to the support of the Decoy Museum's membership, the community, friends, carvers, businesses, and foundations, the Decoy Museum was able to accomplish much in 1996. Books and materials were added to the research library thanks to a grant from the Easton Waterfowl Festival. General operating funds were obtained through grants from the Maryland State Arts Council and Harford County Cultural Advisory Board. In exhibits, decoy collections by Roger Urie, Evans McKinney, Robert Litzenberg, and Joe Fallon now have individual display cases on the second floor. Factory decoys, Contemporary Gunning Decoys, and Decorative Decoys were all new sections in the exhibit "What is a Decoy?" During the summer months, plans were finalized to start construction on the elevator.

The "Buy a Block" campaign was very successful. The two hundred brown blocks sold out and over three hundred white blocks were purchased, leaving just a few more. Special plaques will be placed by the elevator listing the names of all of the supporters in the "Buy a Block" campaign. Thanks go to everyone who joined in to fund the elevator block by block. This campaign worked so well, that the Decoy Museum plans to have an annual giving campaign every Fall.

Now the elevator is completed and ready to ride. Join us at the Decoy Museum for the official ribbon cutting ceremony on February 22, 1997 at 6:30 p.m. This is quite an accomplishment to have completed a large step in the Decoy Museum's long range plan.

Allen J. Fair
President, Board of Directors

Tax deductible contributions can be made to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. The museum was incorporated in 1981 as a non-profit organization which exists to document and interpret waterfowl as this art form applies to the social and economic life of the upper Chesapeake Bay region.



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MUSEUM NEWS

1997 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Decoy Museum welcomes Walter C. Smith, Jr. to the Board of Directors. Walter is a retired Methodist Pastor and resides in Timonium, Maryland. He has been carving decoys for five years, but praying a lot longer. Walter has taken on the responsibility of membership chairman. Good luck and welcome to the Board.

NEW DECOY MUSEUM STAFF MEMBER

On December 2, 1996, Kim Martin from Fallston, Maryland began her job as curator at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Kim's primary duties at the Museum are taking care of the collection and exhibits. She also leads the educational tours, writes for *The Canvasback*, and participates in the planning of special events. It was at the University of Baltimore where Kim received her Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude. Kim gained valuable experience while working at the National Archives and Records Administration, and at the Maryland Historical Society. The Museum warmly welcomes Kim as the new curator.



Kim Martin at work. Photo by M. Murphy.



1997 Board of Directors. Front Row L-R: Jim Pierce, Dr. John Carriere (Treasurer), Madelyn Shank, Allen J. Fair (President), Ken Lay (Vice-President), Norm Smith (Secretary), Ed Watts. Back Row L-R: Dave Walker, Teresa Bennett, Warner Taylor, Michael Affleck, Clovis Bolen, Pat Vincenti, Bill Smart, Mert Street, Walter Smith, and Joe Mitchell. Missing: Mitch Shank.



R. Madison Mitchell surrounded by other decoy carvers. Photo courtesy of Decoy Museum.

R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Fourth Annual Dinner

The R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Fund will host its Fourth Annual Dinner on March 7, 1997, at the Bayou Restaurant on Route 40 in Havre de Grace. The evening will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., followed by the program and auction at 8 p.m.

As in years past, the Endowment is offering special decoys for sale to increase the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Fund. This year there will be one-of-a-kind decoys produced from an original R. Madison Mitchell sinkbox decoy mold. These cast-iron, redhead decoys are painted by Pat Vincenti and Bill Collins, students of R. Madison Mitchell. These twenty-five decoys will only be available to dinner attendees.

Another featured item will be twenty-five pairs of decorative miniature redheads carved by the 1988 Decoy Festival Honorary Chairman, Captain Harry Jobes. These attractive redheads have a slightly turned head and are mounted on wooden bases.

In just under four years, the Endowment has raised and invested over \$62,000. The interest on

this amount will then be used to help preserve the history of decoy carving.

Please join us on March 7th to; remember the carver, R. Madison Mitchell, see friends, support the Endowment Fund, and add to your collection a unique remembrance of this evening. Tickets will be available at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum for \$25 or can be obtained by contacting Endowment Board Member, Madelyn Shank at (410) 939-3947.

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THE ART OF THE DECOY

American Bird Carvings

By Adele Earnest

Reviewed by

Bill Smart

Collecting waterfowl decoys is a relatively new interest for many collectors. Oh, you can find a few who have been collecting twenty-five plus years, however, these folks are few in numbers. There were few works published prior to 1970 which would provide a new collector with a good foundation of knowledge and history of carvers and decoys, or pictures to study. One of the first books to serve this unique interest of decoy collecting and appreciation, was Joel Barber's WILD FOWL DECOYS, published in 1934. In 1947, Eugene Connett's DUCK SHOOTING made some references to decoys and their use, and there were Decoy Collector's Guides published in the early 1960's. However, in 1965, Adele Earnest published THE ART OF THE DECOY. American Bird Carvings which has proven to be one of the more significant references for collectors. The measure of her success with this book can be readily seen by scanning the bibliography of subsequent books concerning decoys, and noting the magnitude of references made to her work.

The perspective of Adele Earnest in researching and writing this book was quite different than most published authors of decoy works. At the time she published this book, she had been, for fifteen years, co-owner of the Stony Point Folk Art Gallery, in Stony Point, New York. As an enthusiast of all types of American folk art and an experienced researcher, she brought rich historical significance and a sense of aesthetic value to this art form.

The author's presentation and entwining of personal experiences with factual reference material has produced a work that is both interesting and easy to read. In the opening chapter, appropriately entitled "Discovery," she relates some of her decoy finds and circumstances which led her to discover unusual works. My personal favorite is a story she relates, in which she was driving along the Chesapeake Bay and noticed a rather large bonfire. Stopping for a closer look, she discovered the fire was fueled by swan decoys. She managed to rescue one of the birds to the



amazement of an onlooking farmer. Adele in turn paid the man five dollars for the treasure.

In a historical section, the author traces the history of wildfowl migrations, the early native American hunters, early decoy use, hunting in the old days (market gunning), and conservation efforts. This section is filled with well documented historical references. In two chapters dedicated to decoy carvings, most of the book's nearly 200 photographs are found. These pictures capture the best of museum artifacts and private collections, and include factory decoys and regional hunting devices as well. Focusing on the carvers and some unique background information, the final chapter is dedicated to the artisans of the decoy. Earnest includes information regarding some of the most prominent decoy makers whose work is in much demand today. Included are: Henry F. Osborne, Albert Laing, Nathan Cobb, John Blair, Elmer Crowell, Shang Wheeler, Joe Lincoln, Jesse Birdsall, Harry Shourds, Steve and Lem Ward, Ira Hudson, and Charles Perdw.

By now, many of the well-read decoy collectors and historians have been exposed to much of the information contained in this publication, which has been around for nearly thirty-two years. The manner in which the author presents her findings and the style of writing, however, results in a most enjoyable reading experience.

THE ART OF THE DECOY: AMERICAN BIRD CARVINGS is 208-pages in length and was originally released in 1965 by Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., and has been reprinted several times. This book is a part of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Research Library.

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Canada Goose	\$80 ea
Loons	\$60 ea
Pigeons	\$35 ea
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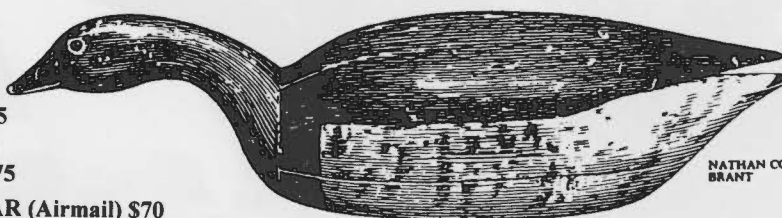
Oversize	Price
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Decoy Lamps (most)	Price
1/2 Swan Lamps	\$120ea
3/4 Size Swan	\$125ea
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YOUNG CARVER INTERVIEW

Vernon Bryant

Kimberly S. Martin

At age eleven, Vernon Bryant's interest in decoys was sparked when he received a gift of decoys from his grandfather. Having found the decoys washed-up on the shore, Vernon's grandfather gave them to him to use for gunning. However, in order to use the abandoned decoys, Vernon first had to repair them. Beginning with new heads for the well-used stools, Vernon taught himself to carve and has been carving ever since.

Born and raised in Charlestown, Maryland, Vernon went on to become a carpenter for his father's carpentry business. Eight years ago he set-up a carving shop at work and began selling his decoys. Eventually, carving began consuming his evenings and weekends, leaving little time to spend with his family. In 1995, with six

months of work lined up, he made the decision to leave his profession of 20 years and go into carving full-time. Vernon, who now works from the carving shop he built at home, says it was a decision he does not regret.

Vernon's style of carving, although not patterned after any one carver, has been mostly influenced by William Heverin, 1863-1951, and John B. Graham, 1822-1912, both of Charlestown. While a portion of his decoys are turned on a duplicating lathe, Vernon chooses to hand-chop, in the tradition of his Cecil County predecessors. His hand-chopped decoys include herons, loons, and cranes.

Using his own patterns, Vernon says his goal for carving is, "to continue to turn out a unique product, as



Vernon painting a seagull decoy. Photo by K. Martin.

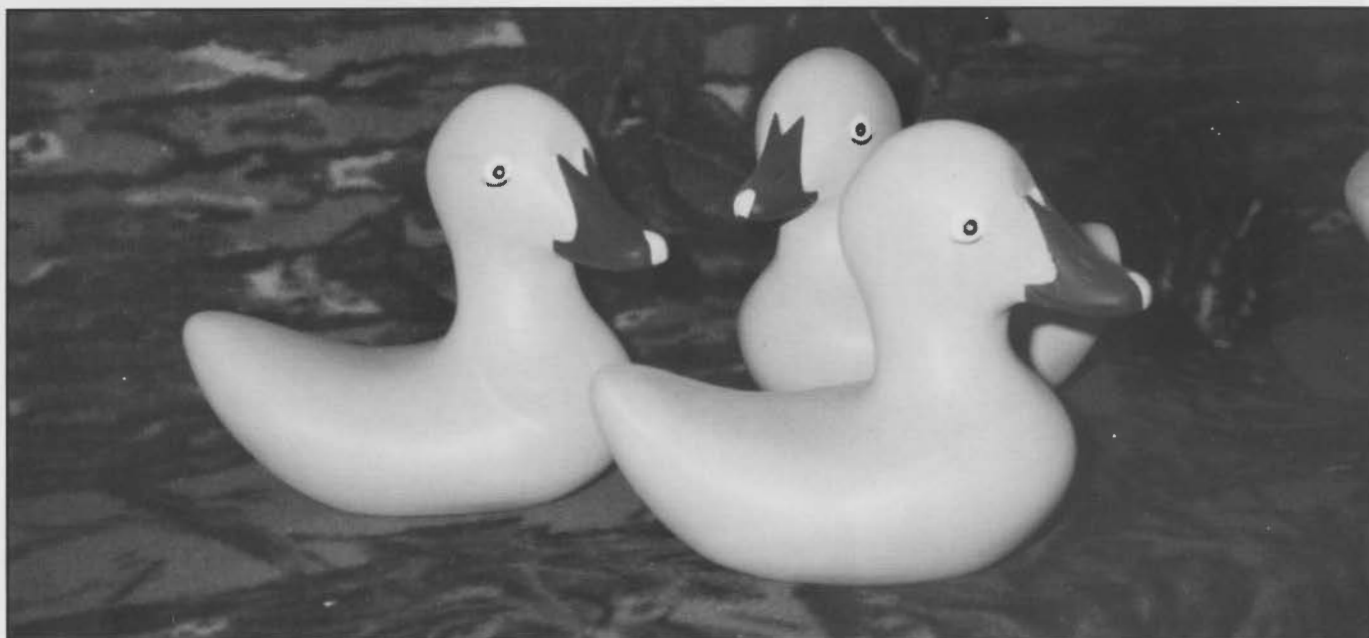


Decorative display skiff and decoys by Vernon Bryant. Photo courtesy of V. Bryant.

well as the traditional gunning decoy." Unique is certainly true of several of Vernon's designs that include the much demanded "yellow duck." Adding to the list of Vernon "originals" are his pancake decoys and decorative display skiffs. Vernon originally carved the pancake decoys as Christmas gifts for the guys he guns with and admits to being a little surprised that they went over so well. The decorative display skiff is a very popular item that keeps him busy with holiday orders. Flying decoys and dead ducks are also among his specialties. As for working decoys, Vernon carves all species with canvasbacks being his favorite. His decoys come in either a traditional or antique finish, and are purchased by both hunters and collectors.

Aside from decoy carving, Vernon is kept busy with a variety of other projects. Many may remember Vernon firing a punt gun at the Decoy Festival and Duck Fair. His first demonstration at the 1990 Havre de Grace Decoy Festival was also his first time as an exhibitor there. Vernon remembers, "Kenny Lay, who was overseeing the demonstration, said I would just have to do it on Saturday and that would give me a break on Sunday. That was good because I needed it after running back and forth all day from firing the punt gun to working at the festival." The punt gun and skiff were built by Vernon who modeled them after Ralph Murphy's punt gun skiff on display in the Decoy Museum's "Gunning the Flats."

Recently, Vernon designed and built a gunning boat for Little Vernon, his son. He describes the boat as a cross between a Chesapeake Bay sneak skiff and a Barnegat Bay sneak box. As for the decoys used with the boat, they were carved by Little Vernon. Vernon is proud to see his son begin to follow in both his carving and gunning footsteps.



Yellow ducks by Vernon Bryant. Photo courtesy of V. Bryant.

Adding to Vernon's list of interests and accomplishments is his work with the Upper Bay Museum. As the museum's vice president, he has been successful in coordinating efforts to increase museum awareness and boost membership.

So what does Vernon Bryant have in store for the future? "Variety I couldn't just do decoys," replied Vernon when questioned on the subject. While Vernon still enjoys carving decoys, he likes to branch out by building replicas of guns or designing and constructing boats. "I like to come up with my ideas and style," says Vernon, and it is with this in mind that he continues to turn out a unique product.

*Vernon carving a decoy head.
Photo by K. Martin.*



A pair of mallards by Vernon Bryant. Photo courtesy of V. Bryant.

Gunning in Old Harford County

C. John Sullivan

The winter equinox has passed, the snow will soon melt, and my thoughts once again turn to past spring days. Those of us who grew up in the environs of old Harford County are indeed fortunate. I was blessed to have been born and raised in Fallston where I enjoyed my early days with friend and guns. We would anxiously await spring days, when at last we could go outside with the guns we had unwrapped at Christmas.

My first gun was a "Cowboy" six shooter. It had black plastic grips with a steer head molded in the plastic and an eight-inch barrel. The finish on the metal parts had a bright brassy look, unlike any real gun I have ever seen. There was a looseness where the barrel attached in front of the cylinder. It has not improved much with age. Just at the moment when I would draw a bead on some low-down hombre, the barrel would drop about a quarter of an inch. I would be unnerved and humiliated. I moved in and out of my cowboy stage depending on what toy firearm appeared in my Christmas stocking.

One year I got a snubbed nose cap gun with the brand name, Dick, stamped into the chrome finished pot metal. It was compact and easy to conceal. I eventually acquired an uncomfortable underarm shoulder holster for it. Another Christmas morning a light blue plastic ray gun appeared next to the fireplace, since it was too long for my stocking. I fell on it one day and put a hole in the stock. However, the ray gun still protected me during my space travel forays. I used a battery powered tommy gun when I played gangster. The frequency with which the batteries to this gun disappeared made me aware of

my parent's annoyance at its noise. The tip of the barrel was bright red plastic and it moved in and out at a great rate of speed to simulate gunfire. At the age of nine or ten, I got a gun that looked just like a lever action Daisy, that made a great popping noise, but did not shoot BBs. Finally, by age twelve, the real Daisy with a genuine

simulated wood grain plastic stock arrived. For some reason I never received the repetitive warnings about eye loss. Mom and Dad must have assumed that since one eye already did not work, I would be extra careful.

The boys from Fallston boys used to have great gun battles. We played all along the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad. We would jump in and out of, climb on top of, and crawl underneath, a one hundred year old passenger car that rested on an old siding. We climbed up and down a ramp used for loading freight cars. It became our mountain that we could easily take in battle. The Old West was right in the middle of Fallston. My friend, Lee, had a cast metal German luger model which had a great look, but no action at all. The trigger did not even move or make any noise. It was Lee who introduced the "pow-pussey-yow-zing" sound effect into our gang's shooting repertoire.

By age thirteen, my friend Kenny and I, were firmly dedicated to shooting our Daisy BB guns almost daily. It was always a contest, who was the best shot, whose gun shot the hardest, who

could put the most BBs into a tin can. Kenny's Daisy was a pump gun, mine was the lever action long rifle model 80. We always ended in a tie. The end of my BB days came abruptly. Kenny and I were out shooting one day and I had my good eye trained on the target. I pulled

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the trigger and heard the normal "pop" sound of my Daisy, but followed by the sound of the BB slowly rolling out of the barrel and dropping on the ground about six inches in front of my boots. We both took turns cocking that rifle over and over, but that was the end of my Daisy which was a wallhanger from then on. We then moved on to our first twenty-two "bullet rifles," as my Dad used to call them. In the normal progression, we then bought single barrel shotguns.

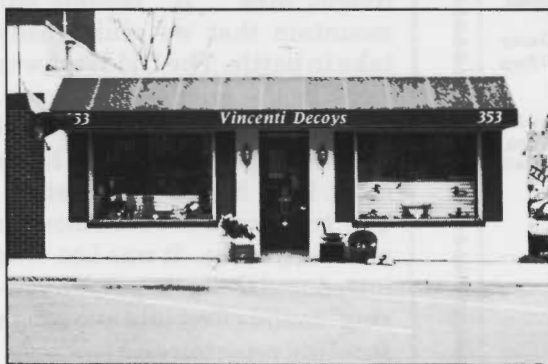
After high school, Lee went to Viet Nam, as a machine gunner on a helicopter. Lee died a few years ago as a result of war injuries. Kenny put away his guns, trained to be a steam fitter, grew a beard, moved out West and continues to make wonderful wooden toys. I got married, had a son, and work for the State. I gather old stuff and guns around me. I introduced my son to those toy guns of mine and the real ones that followed. Our days of hunting are days to respect nature and all those beautiful things in the great outdoors. Our days of target shooting are fun and although a contest, always end in a tie. Guns and the smell of spring in the air will always take me back to those wonderful times in old Harford County with my childhood friends.



Young C. John Sullivan III with his pump action gun. Photo courtesy of C. J. Sullivan II Jr.

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Havre de Grace Decoy Museum
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the 6th Annual
Carver's Appreciation Day

Saturday, February 22, 1997
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

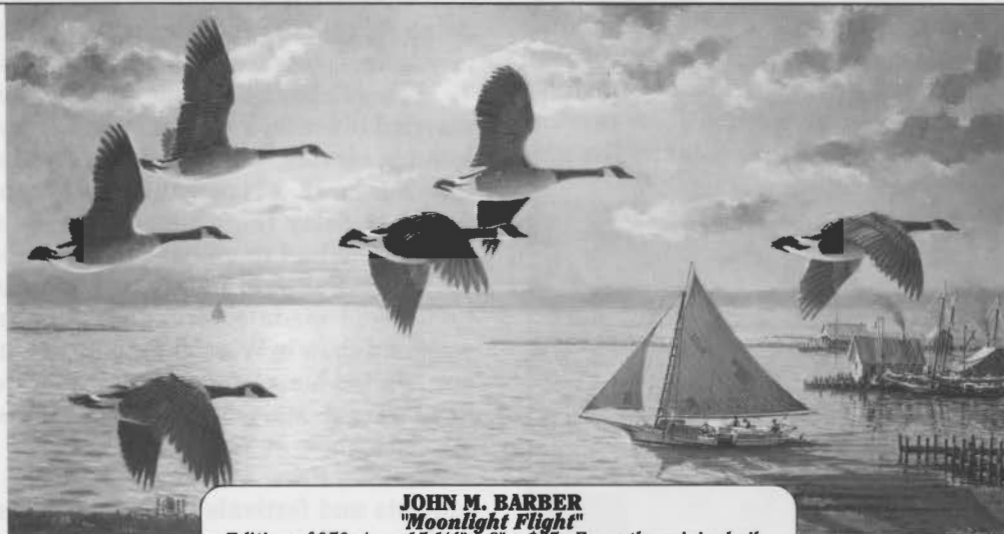
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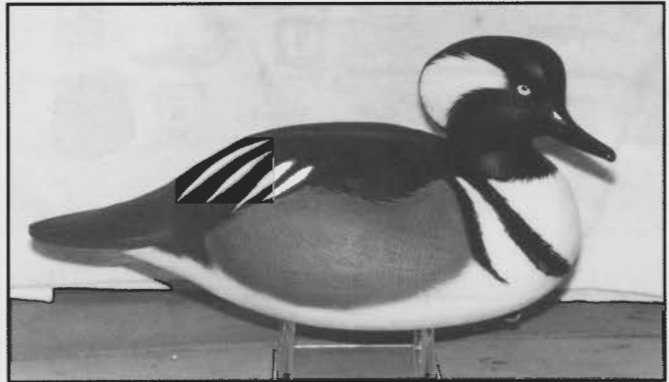
Prinz, a retired police officer, began carving decoys fourteen years ago, but did not become a "serious" carver until twelve years ago. Over those twelve years, he has won numerous ribbons for his work, including two Best of Shows at last Spring's Havre de Grace Decoy, Wildlife Art, & Sportsman Festival. His winning entries were a snow goose (decorative slick) and a goldeneye hen in the hunting contest.

"I was very fortunate to win both of them," Prinz said. The ribbons displayed on his studio walls and the decoys hanging there demonstrate that his carving skills are more responsible for winning than good luck.

Prinz says he began carving decoys as a hobby while he was still employed with the police department. He remembers seeing pictures of decoys in a magazine and his interest was piqued. Although his woodworking skills were limited to carpentry and some cabinet work, he thought carving would be fun to try. "I just wanted to see what I could do," he added. He had no idea that he would become so involved in decoy carving when he began, but one thing led to another and he was soon hooked.



Sue Ann and Charles Prinz. Photo by Linda Yoder.



Hooded merganser drake by Charles Prinz. Photo courtesy of C. Prinz.

"I am entirely self-taught," he explained. "When I started carving, there was nobody in this area really doing decoys. The very few in the surrounding areas liked to keep their techniques deep, guarded secrets. They wouldn't tell beginners anything. They were all doing decoratives back then. And, if they did tell me anything, it was usually wrong — on purpose."

It was about the time he began carving that he married his wife, Sue Ann. She became, "really interested in carving," and the two of them started working together in what is now their decoy studio. They were forced to delay their honeymoon for several months because he had to go back to work the day after the wedding. Sue Ann finally took matters into her own hands and made reservations for them to attend a weekend show in Westlake, Ohio. "That's how we spent our belated honeymoon," Prinz chuckled. "And that's how we got started attending shows. We haven't missed a show at Westlake since!"

In fact, Prinz and Sue Ann attend eight to twelve contests and festivals in various parts of the country each year. They also enter another six or seven contests through mail entries.

Looking back over the many years and the many ribbons he has won, Prinz said he started at the wrong end of his art form and worked backwards. According to him, the more realistic progression is to start with the hunting decoys, go to decorative slicks, then to decoratives.

"We started with the decoratives and worked down

to service birds or decorative slicks. I really enjoy doing those. Decorative slicks are International Waterfowl Carving Association birds. I compete nationally with them. They do well and I love doing them. Just a couple of years ago, I got interested in hunting decoys. And, that's a whole 'nother thing!"

Prinz advises beginners to start with a good hunting block and learn the anatomy of the birds first. "Get a real solid decoy, that's important. Then move on to decorative slicks — which are a little more carving, a lot more painting." He added that if the carver has a lot of time on his hands and enjoys woodburning, he can move on to decoratives.

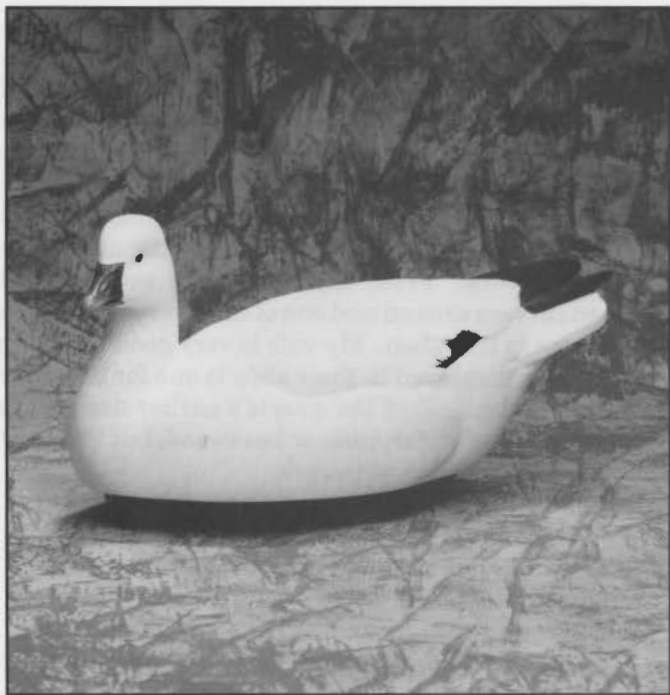
"I work on my decoys every day. I would rather be out here in the studio than in the house. I'm not comfortable if I don't have something to do. When you compete in as many contests as we do, it takes a lot of birds. It takes a lot of time to get those birds ready to qualify. Decoy carving is just like anything else. The more you stay with it, the better you get at it. I find, myself, that if I take a week or two off, I get a little bit rusty."

Unlike the treatment he received when he began carving, Prinz is willing to share what he has learned the hard way. While he does not consider himself a teacher, he does enjoy helping others with the basics and often tutors beginners. "I've helped a lot of people over the years, nothing formal, just individual help and advice." Among his occasional students are a few women carvers. Prinz says there are several good women carvers around and one of the, "very best works right here in this shop. My wife is very good." Among the ribbons displayed in their shop is one for her prize winning grebe. All of the couple's earlier decoys are carved in either cedar, pine or basswood, but last year Prinz began working with cork.

"Cork is a funny thing, I never appreciated cork decoys before. I didn't like them 'cause they looked like work! After seeing a lot of them, I decided I could make one, a real high quality bird. Those birds on the counter are all cork (pointing to four mallards and a black duck). They are part of a river hunting rig I'm making for my son's birthday. The rig, when completed, will have between ten and twelve decoys, de-



The Printz's shelves filled with ribbons winners. Photo by Linda Yoder.



Snow goose by Charles Prinz. Photo courtesy of C. Prinz.

pending on how my time goes. There are five there, and another on my workbench. Notice the two mallard hens? One is darker than the other. Sue Ann and I see them every day over at the pond across the street. There are so many color variations it's unbelievable. Since I try for natural, I don't paint them the same."

The couple loves to compete and travel. "We meet so many decoy people," he said. "It's fun to compete and win in different areas of the country. The competitors in each contest have the same rules, but the styles are all very different." The farthest they have traveled was to the California Open several years ago. While he doubts he will ever go there in person again, he still enters birds every year.

Prinz is also a collector of decoys and often buys or trades birds at the shows he attends. He recently acquired the first place hunting decoy, a common scoter, at the Havre de Grace Decoy Festival last year. It was carved by a gentleman from New Jersey.

As for his own birds, Prinz says he is never satisfied with his work and continually experiments in an effort to improve. He also likes to try new ideas, but like most carvers, he says he has his own "ace in the hole" where his birds are concerned. He prefers to practice new techniques on hunting decoys before trying them on the slicks. Prinz draws his own patterns, using live birds, videos, photos and mounts as models. He traces the pattern onto the wood or cork block, then uses a band saw to expose the basic shape of the bird. Once the block is shaped, everything else is hand carved. While he may

use the same basic pattern for an entire rig of several birds, no two will be exactly alike. Each bird, is individualized and has its own personality.

That personality plays an important role in each of his decoys is a given. He has an aviary just outside his shop window in which he keeps several pairs of twenty-two different species of wild ducks. At any given time, there are more than 100 ducks, representing the breeds he prefers to carve, in the large enclosure. He said the aviary allows them to study the bird's habits, behavior and personalities. He often videotapes the living bird he is carving and uses the television in his studio to study his model. "Coloring, personality and pose are all important to me. These details are very important to this art form."

Charles and SueAnn Prinz, a carving couple. Although they went about it backwards, Charles and Sue Ann ended up in the right place, making beautiful, natural, prize-winning decoys.

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum -Raffle-

One Grand Prize

**A collection of sixteen decoys from
the Decoy Festival's
Past Honorary Chairmen
and a Paul Shertz print
that represents all sixteen decoys.**

R.M. Mitchell canvasback, P. Gibson pintail,
C. Bryan widgeon, R. Lizenbery canvasback,
C. Joiner woodduck, H. Jobes canvasback,
W. Collins goose, R. Urie pair of bluebills,
J. Pierce woodduck, J. Currier canvasback,
A. Schauber merganser, H. Shourds brant,
W. Schauber old squaw, R. McGaw canvasback,
E. McKinney redhead

**Winner drawn at the Havre de Grace
Decoy Festival, Middle School
May 4, 1997 at 3:45 p.m.**

1 ticket for \$5 3 tickets for \$10

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Also available, but not pictured: 6-Pouch, 34" long x 12" wide x 16" high - ZigZag Design (Holds 6 magnum size or 6 Canada geese or 8-12 smaller decoys) \$35 + \$3 S&H

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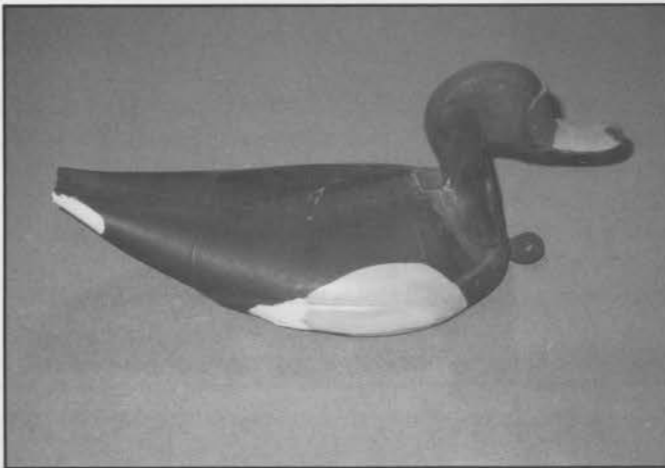
A Different Approach

L. Eugene Cronin

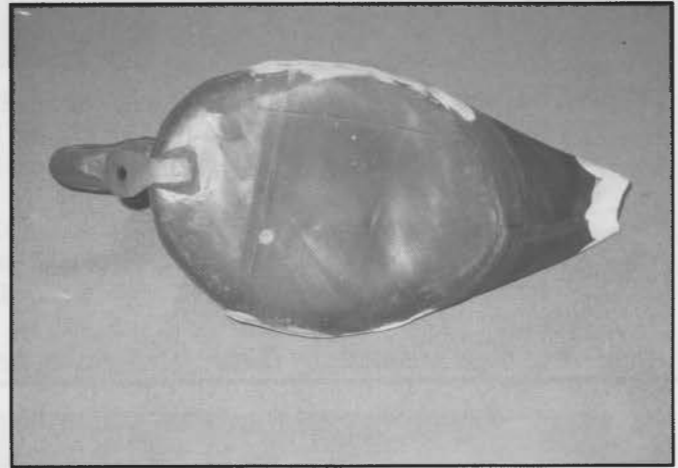
When I was in southern Brazil for a research conference, I was unsuccessful in finding any hand-made wooden decoys. A colleague suggested that I try a local sporting goods store. There I found some notable ones made out of other materials. On the floor, there were thirty to forty new decoys, all hand-made and alike.

The decoy pictured is a rosy billed pochard, which migrates between the coast and the mountains. We do not have this species here, but it is related to the redhead. It was cleverly made from the innertube of a truck tire. I have not shot over it, but I think it would work well.

There is still room for ingenuity in our world. The decoy cost me \$1.50 and no special ticket to fly it home. Keep looking for new and different variations!



Rosy billed pochard. Photo by L. Eugene Cronin.



Bottom of the rosy billed pochard. Photo by L. Eugene Cronin.

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Annual Sporting Clays Event April 19, 1997

Location: Alexander Sporting Farms, 13503 Alexander's Rd., Golts, Md 21637

Registration: 10:00 am to 12:30 pm Cost: \$50.00 for 50 targets

HOA Gun Prize: Browning Gold 12 G., Lewis Class Awards, Ladies Class Awards

There will be pit beef, raffles, live auction.

5 Stand, Long Bird, and Mulligans Available

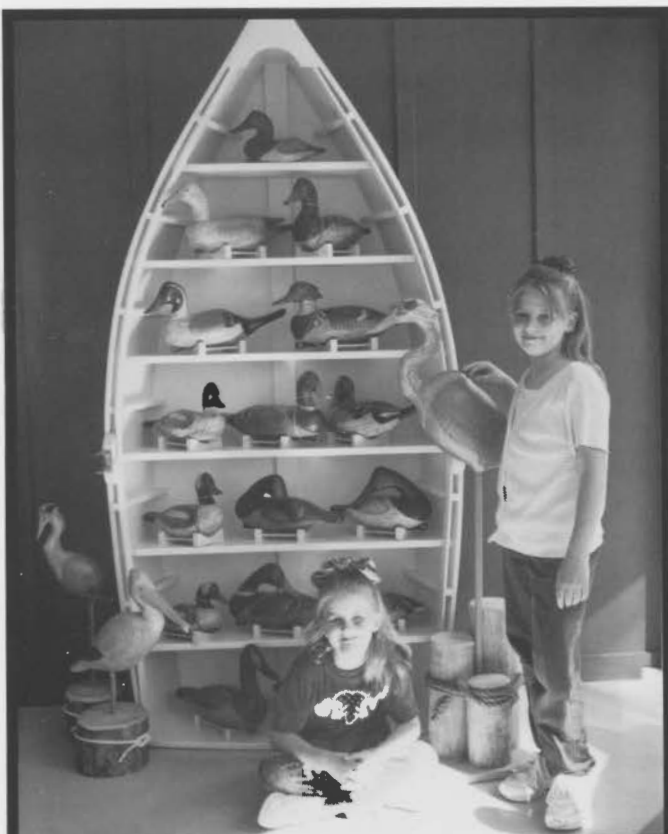
For more information call Michael Affleck (410) 676-3600/557-6751

Norm Smith (410) 332-7632 or the Decoy Museum (410) 939-3739

Drawing will take place one week prior to shoot, winner will shoot the course with Mr. Charlie Joiner

To pre-register, please send a check for \$50, your name, address, city, state, zip,
and phone number to:

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, P.O. Box 878, Havre de Grace, Md 21078



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Serving dinner weekend evening by reservation. Open to the public.

Charles "Buck" Benton Crawford

Karla Mattsson

Buck Crawford was born in Havre de Grace on August 27, 1889, and grew up hunting and fishing around the Susquehanna Flats. He was considered by many to be an authority on the Bay, and was often sought out for his expert opinions. Later in life, Buck quit hunting and focused on fishing. Buck worked as a painter for a local contractor, Andre Pasqualini, for many years.

A talented carver, he was famous for tiny decoys that were perfect in every detail. His work was heavily influenced by Bob McGaw; this influence can be seen in the shape of his miniature swans. He carved heads for Madison Mitchell and took home the wood scraps for his miniatures. Buck liked to work alone and he carved by hand, using only a whittling knife. On occasion, he had Jim Pierce paint a few special projects. He sold his carvings in Emerson Mitchell's shop in downtown Havre de Grace. Buck died on August 9, 1965.

A selection of his miniatures are on display at the Decoy Museum for a limited time.





Buck Crawford. Photo courtesy of Virginia Holcombs.



Miniature canvasbacks by Buck Crawford. Photo by M. Murphy.



Miniature swan by Buck Crawford. Photo by M. Murphy.



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The *BIG* Decoy

Mary Jo Murphy

In September of 1996, Pat and Jeannie Vincenti, received a phone call from an interior designer from Wilmington, Delaware, who represented the Delaware Bay Authority. She was in charge of decorating the inside of a new ferry using a waterfowl theme. This ferry would carry passengers and vehicles from Lewes, Delaware, to Cape May, New Jersey. Her idea was to have a large decoy mounted inside the ferry for people to sit on it and take pictures. At first Pat and Jeannie thought this was a joke, but soon realized it was a unique opportunity. The design team discussed with Pat and Jeannie different options, then visited them at their workshop in Churchville. The designers selected the blackduck, a popular duck in the Delaware area to

be the 6-1/2 foot decoy. Along with the blackduck, twelve pairs of regular size decoys were ordered.

A lot of planning went into this decoy. With the help of Bill Collins, who works at the Vincenti's shop, Pat and Jeannie began by making a prototype decoy with the same number of layers the big decoy would have. They worked with an architectural firm to find out the exact dimensions each piece had to be. This information was obtained by scanning each piece from the prototype into the computer. Once the pattern pieces and measurements were finalized, sugar pine wood was delivered and the construction began. A few large tools had to be borrowed, from boat builders, and some regular tools were altered to work on the big decoy. Over 900 board feet went into the decoy and it took three weeks to complete. They then rented a Ryder truck to deliver the 650 lb. decoy to the ferry.

It is now secured under the stairs in the main room of the ferry. Pat and Jeannie have gotten cards and notes from people that have taken the ferry and have seen the big decoy. Replicas of the blackduck are now sold on the ferry for souvenirs. Soon, as the weather begins to turn warmer, make sure to take the Cape May-Lewes ferry and see for yourself the big black duck decoy.



Unloading the wood for the big decoy. Photo courtesy of the Vincenti's.



The small scale model sits on the the pieces of the body. Photo courtesy of the Vincenti's.



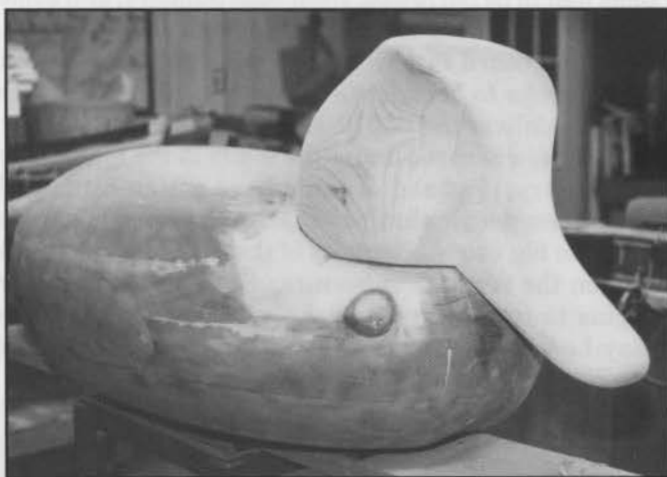
Marking out the tail section. Photo courtesy of the Vincenti's.



Laminating the pieces together. Photo courtesy of the Vincenti's.



Pat shaping the head. Photo courtesy of the Vincenti's.



Everything sanded and filled. Photo by M. Murphy.



Smooth and sealed. Photo courtesy of the Vincenti's.



Pat painting the duck. Photo courtesy of the Vincenti's.



Jeannie working on the details. Photo courtesy of the Vincenti's.

It's finished! Photo by M. Murphy.



BELOW: *In place on the Cape May-Lewes ferry. Photo courtesy of the Vincentis.*



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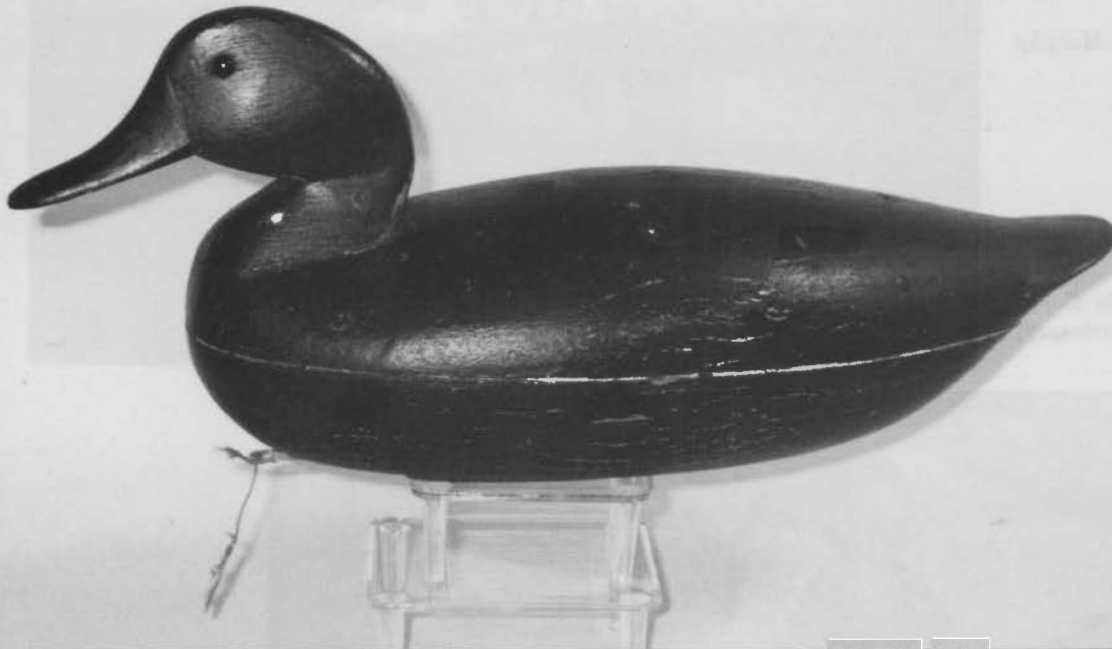


Sporting Collectibles

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Frank & Frank will be holding their annual spring auction in conjunction
with the New Jersey Decoy Collectors Show and Sale on

March 9th, 1997

The auction will feature 450 lots of sporting collectibles
including decoys by **Hudson, Watson, Ward, Cranmer, Sprague,**
Mitchell, Crowell, Holly Shourds, McGaw, Jackson, Conklin, Miller,
McKinny, McKenny, Lincoln, Bacon, Mason, and Heverin.
Also decoys from Canada, Michigan and the West Coast.

*Featuring an unknown "Cleveland canvasback" wing duck
gunned over by Grover Cleveland*

Auction to be held at Barron Galleries,
504 Main St. Asbury Park, New Jersey

Consignments are still being accepted. Free verbal estimates will be
expeditiously given with complete confidentiality for all of your antique needs.

Catalog with price key is \$15
Please call (908) 938-2988 phone and fax.

1st Annual Woodland Academy WILDLIFE EXPO

Sat., April 12, 1997: 9 am - 7 pm
Sun., April 13, 1997: 9 am - 4 pm

**Register Early. Don't miss your chance to
reserve a space! - \$25 per space (10" x 8")**
Set-up time on Friday, 3:30 - 9 pm

WOODLAND ACADEMY, Montross, VA
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Saturday night: Exhibitors reception
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For names of area accomodations,
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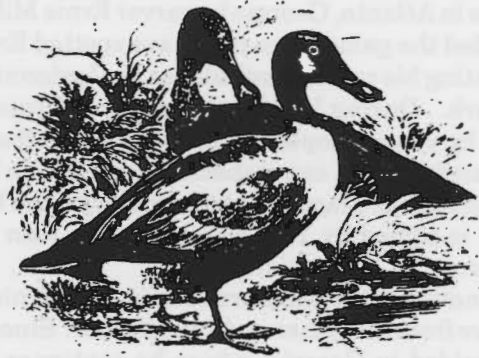
Raffle Winners from December 8, 1996

1st prize Remington shotgun
Janet Joiner
Chestertown, Maryland

2nd prize Decoy Quilt
Barb Reisinger
Sparks, Maryland

3rd prize, Blue heron decoy
Harry V. Shourds II
Ocean View, New Jersey

17th Annual Harford Day School



Waterfowl Show and Sale

Sat., Feb. 15, 10-5 pm
Sun., Feb. 16, 11-5 pm
715 Moores Mill Road
Bel Air, MD

Artists • Working Decoys
Antique Decoys • Collectibles
Wildlife Art • Raffle
Silent Auction

~ Admission \$3.00 ~
~ 2 Day Pass \$5.00 ~
Senior Citizen Discount
Children under 12 free

Directions: From 95, Exit 77B (Rt. 24)
towards Bel Air. Follow to Rt. 1
Bypass North. Exit at Rt. 924 South
Bel Air to left on Moores Mill Rd.

For Info: Call (410) 838-4848 / 879-2350

EXHIBIT UPDATE

Kim Martin

"The Olympic Decoy"

Decoy carving may not be an official Olympic sport, but the folk art was represented at the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta, Georgia by carver Ernie Mills. If you attended the games, you may have spotted Ernie demonstrating his carving techniques in Centennial Olympic Park. During his demonstrations, Ernie was assisted by young people and a few adults in the sanding and rasping of six canvasback decoys. Ernie has been kind enough to place one of these decoys, the bottom of which is signed by 110 "assistants," on loan with the Museum.

A native of the Delmarva Peninsula, Ernie learned to carve from his father and grandfather. Since 1978 he has resided in Georgia, where he continues to hand-chop working decoys for hunters and collectors alike. Stop by the Museum for a visit, because even if you missed the Olympic Games, you don't want to miss seeing "The Olympic Decoy."

Hunting Collectibles

Roger Poffenbarger has placed on loan for temporary exhibit, a collection of antique powder cans, powder kegs, and shell boxes. This colorful display offers an interesting look at the way various gunpowder manufacturers packaged and marketed their products. The well preserved artifacts, with their stylized labels often depicting hunting scene, date from 1858 to 1940.

Captain Roger Urie Decoy Collection

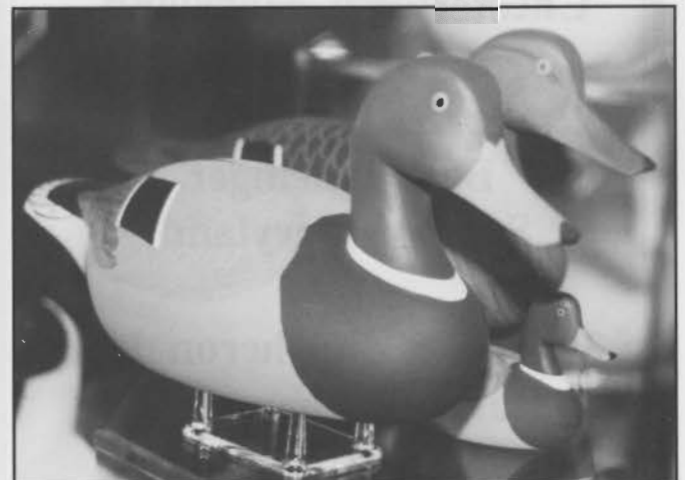
The decoy collection carved and donated by Captain Roger Urie, Honorary Chairman 1990, is now on permanent display in the Carvers Gallery. The Rock Hall carver's decoys, characterized by deeply carved blunt bills and flat bottoms, make an attractive collection for the Museum to exhibit. This is especially true of Captain Urie's tundra swan that compliments Evans McKinney's (Honorary Chairman 1995), tundra swan displayed in the neighboring case. Comprised of matching pairs of full size and half-size decoys, the collection includes canvasbacks, redheads, bluebills, pintails, teals, and Canada geese. This is the fourth Honorary Chairman case to be installed in 1996, so if you haven't been to the Museum for awhile, you are long overdue to view the new additions to the Carvers Gallery.



Ernie Mills working on "The Olympic Decoy" in Centennial Olympic Park, Atlanta, Georgia, July 1996. He is being helped by a young assistant using a sanding bow. Photo courtesy of E. Mills.



DuPont powder kegs and tins. Photo by M. Murphy.



A pair of mallards in Roger Urie's display case. Photo by M. Murphy.

Weekend Carving Demonstrations at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

March 1,	Ken Clodfelter	April 5,	Mike Gleason
March 2,	John Ingoglia	April 6,	Bill Weaver
March 8,	Joe Cook	April 12,	Ken Clodfelter
March 9,	Barb Wachter	April 13,	Art Boxleitner
March 15,	Wayne Thayer	April 19,	Mike Dedekind
March 16,	Nick Birster	April 20,	Joe Cook
March 22,	Butch and Mary Carol Larrimore	April 26,	Butch and Mary Carol Larrimore
March 23,	OPEN	April 27,	OPEN
March 29,	Warner Taylor		
March 30,	Lenny Burcham		

If you are interested in being a weekend carver on any of the OPEN dates, please contact Arlene at 410-939-3174. Thanks!


Auction News Anniversary Dinner

The Anniversary Dinner was held this year at the Bayou Restaurant on Route 40. Over ninety people attended the dinner and enjoyed the food, friends, and fun. Gail Carriere received the Volunteer of the Year Award, and Allen Fair and Ed Watts were awarded special certificates from County Executive Eileen Rehmann.

All items in the auction were donated. Many thanks go to Ernie Mills, Ned Ewell, Howard Hall, Lou Nolan, Durant Ball, Gail Carriere, Joe Cook, Dan Brown, Paula Harmon, Teresa and Stan Bennett, Jim and Charlie Pierce, Charlie Bryan, Harry Shourds, Bill Coussons, Robert McKnight, Jim Taylor, Marlin Barry, William Veasey, Leo Hepner, Chris White, the Easton Waterfowl Festival, and Johnson Wood Products for donating the auction items. Thanks also go to Patrick O'Neill who donated his auctioneering services that evening. Make plans to come next year's Anniversary Dinner on November 1, 1997. The top three lots from the November 2, 1996 auction.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Price</u>
1. Gosling Canada goose by Charlie Bryan	\$350
2. Shorebird by Harry V. Shourds II	\$300
3. Preening black duck by Jim and Charlie Pierce	\$200

The next auction will be at the Carver's Appreciation Day on February 22, 1997. It will be held at the Decoy Museum. All Museum members are welcome.

<p>838-0830- V/T</p> <p style="text-align: right;">836-8310- Fax</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Phillip Gilden LICENSED PHYSICAL THERAPIST Winters Run Professional Center</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1131 Baltimore Pike Bel Air, Maryland 21014</p>	 <p>Pogo, Inc. 1734 Jerry's Road Street, MD 21154</p> <p>Rip Poole Duck Boats & Decoys</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(410) 692-6434 (410) 879-4984</p>
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CALENDAR

February

15-16

17th Annual Harford Day School Waterfowl Show and Sale. Artists, Working Decoys, Antique Decoys, Collectibles, Wildlife Art, Raffle, Silent Auction. Held at the Harford Day School, 715 Moores Mill Road, Bel Air, MD. Call (410)838-4848 or (410) 879-2350.

22

Decoy Museum's 6th Carvers Appreciation Day Held on the 2nd floor of the Decoy Museum. Membership and friends welcome. Free. Light appetizers start at 6:30 pm. Call (410) 939-3739.

March

1-2

22nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Wildfowl and Wildlife Festival. Contact: Back Bay Wildfowl Guild, P.O. Box 805, Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

7

R. M. Mitchell Endowment Dinner Held at the Bayou Restaurant. Tickets available for \$25 each at the Decoy Museum or by calling Madelyn Shank at (410) 939-3947.

9

Decoy Auction with over 450 lots. Held at Barrons Galleries 504 Main St. Asbury Park, NJ. Held in conjunction with the New Jersey Decoy Collectors Show & Sale. Call (908) 938-2988.

15-16

20th Annual O.D.C.C.A. Decoy Show. Over 125 Dealers in Antique Decoys, Wildlife Art, Waterfowl Decoy Exhibits, Auction, Carving and Art Supplies. Held at Holiday Inn, Westlake, OH. Contact: O.D.C.C.A., P.O. 499, Richfield, OH 44286 (419)862-3469.

22-23

"Artists for Children" - 1997 Delaware Art Show & Sale. Sat. preview gala - dinner, auction, cabaret performance, \$50; Sun. Art Show & Sale by regional & wildlife artists, admission fee. Contact: Delaware Technical & Community College, Georgetown, DE. (302) 855-1607.

April

12-13

1st Annual Woodland Academy WILDLIFE EXPO. \$25 per space (10' x 8'). Woodland Academy, Montross, VA. Call (804) 493-8244.

19

"Just for Sport" Antique and Collectible Hunting & Fishing Show and Sale. Canterbury Park, Shakopee, MN. Admission \$5, free parking. Write 104 N. Main St., Stillwater, MN 55082 or call (612) 439-7883.

26-27

31st Annual Midwest Decoy Collectors Decoy Show. Pheasant Run Resort Mega Center, St. Charles, IL. (708) 639-9392.

May

2-4

16th Annual Havre de Grace Decoy, Wildlife & Sportsman Festival. Over 250 exhibitors: decoy collectors, decoy carvers, wildlife artists, authors, supplies, demonstrations, I.W.C.A. carving competitions, retriever demonstrations, Saturday evening decoy auction and more. Free shuttle, Day Pass-\$5, weekend - \$8. Contact: Decoy Museum, P.O. Box 878, Havre de Grace, MD 21078 or call (410) 939-3739.

CLASSIFIED

For our members we offer free classified ads to buy, sell, and trade decoys or related objects. Please keep it under 15 words. For non-members, it will be \$5.00 for 15 words. Mail your classified ads to: Decoy Museum, P.O. Box A, Havre de Grace, MD 21078.

WANTED: Old wooden fishing lures (plugs) with glass eyes. Also old reels, etc. Photos helpful. Pay at least \$50 for each, call or write: Mike Bodner, 1132 Solly Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111 or (215) 742-2746

ATTENTION: The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum now has a new P.O. Box #878. Please make necessary changes.

FOR SALE: Breyer miniature horses. Large \$10. small \$5. Large assortment. Call (410) 939-3739.

Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival

May 2nd, 3rd & 4th

Havre de Grace, Maryland

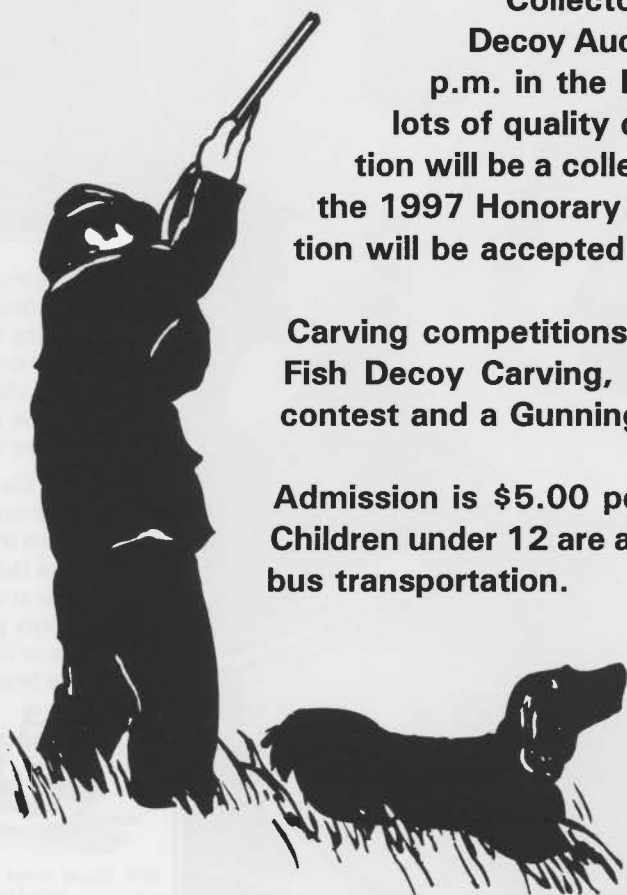


Join us for our 16th Annual Festival and see decoy carvers, wildlife artists, sportsman collectibles, retriever demonstrations, and artifact displays.

Collectors won't want to miss the Festival's Decoy Auction held on Saturday, May 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. Expect 100 lots of quality decoys this year. Included in the auction will be a collection of decoys carved by Ronald Rue the 1997 Honorary Chairman. Consignments to the auction will be accepted until April 1st.

Carving competitions include the Atlantic Flyway Classic, Fish Decoy Carving, Decorative contests, Youth Gunning contest and a Gunning Rig competition.

Admission is \$5.00 per day or \$8.00 for a weekend pass. Children under 12 are admitted free. Free parking and shuttle bus transportation.



For more information contact:

The Decoy Museum

P.O. Box 878, 215 Giles St.

Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Phone: 410-939-3739 / Fax 410-939-3775

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