

# Decoy, Wildlife Art, & Sportsman Festival

Spring 1997  
Vol. 6, No. 2

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

\$3  
*The Canvasback*



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## 1982-1997 Havre de Grace Decoy Festival

### Honorary Chairmen

1982	R. Madison Mitchell <i>deceased</i>
1983	Paul Gibson <i>deceased</i>
1984	Charles Bryan
1985	No Chairman
1986	Robert Litzenberg
1987	Charles Joiner
1988	Captain Harry Jobes
1989	Captain Bill Collins
1990	Captain Roger Urie
1991	James Pierce
1992	James Currier <i>deceased</i>
1993	William "Bill" Schauber and Allan Schauber
1994	Robert McGaw <i>deceased</i>
1995	J. Evans McKinney
1996	Harry V. Shourds II
1997	Ronald Rue

### Honorary Artist

1993	Louis F.X. Frisino
1994	Durant Ball
1995	Christopher White
1996	Paul Shertz
1997	No Honorary Artist

*R. Madison Mitchell*

*Paul Gibson*

*James A. Currier*

*Robert F. McGaw Jr.*

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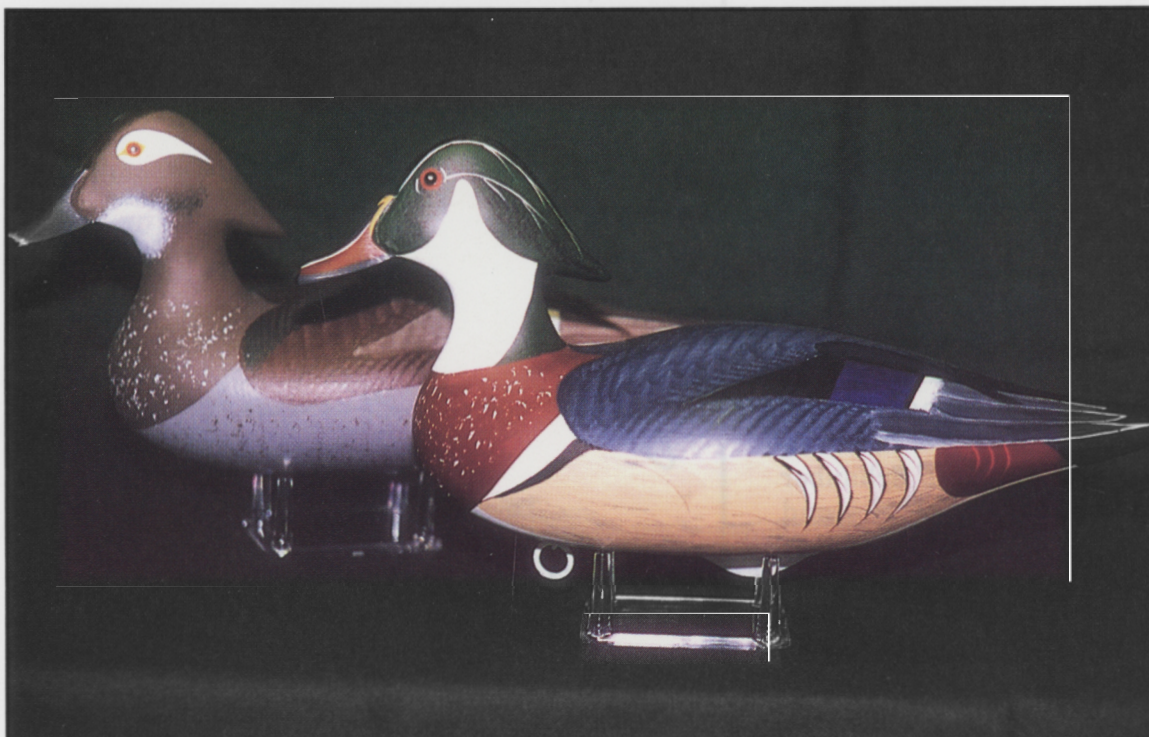
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Species	Price
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<b>Oversize</b>	<b>Price</b>
Canvasbacks	\$50 ea
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# Havre de Grace Decoy Museum



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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Calendar of Events
Classified Ads



## FROM THE EDITOR

Between issues and before the last minute details of the Festival were upon us, I was able to take a vacation in London, England. Expecting to see just the usual sites of London; Big Ben, Parliament, St. Paul's, Buckingham Palace, and Westminster Abbey, I was delighted to also see a variety of waterfowl and birds.

My husband and I were walking in the Queen's garden which leads to Buckingham Palace. Two beautiful swans swam by us in the pond. Underneath a tree we saw some colorful waterfowl jump up to nibble the tips of the nearby weeping willows. It turned out to be several energetic pairs of wood ducks and mandarins.



Swans at Kensington Palace. Photo by M. Murphy.

They were probably wishing for a trampoline. The thousands of tourists walking by and taking photos, did not even seem to bother them.

At Kensington Palace, there were many swans, coots, bluebills, and geese swimming in the pond. The Tower of London had large ravens patrolling the grounds; and of course, we saw hundreds of pigeons at Trafalgar Square. Even though I was in a foreign country, I could still see the familiar faces of the birds and waterfowl!

*Mary Jo Murphy*

## ON THE COVER

A widgeon decoy, made by 1997 Decoy Festival's Honorary Chairman Ronald Rue. Photo by M.J. Murphy.

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1997**

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Havre de Grace Decoy Museum  
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*From  
the  
President*

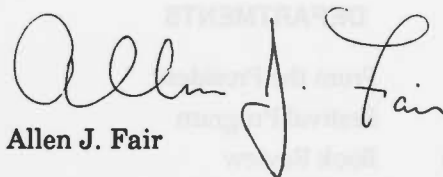


Dear Museum Member,

The Decoy, Wildlife Art, & Sportsman Festival is one of the most important fund raising events for the Decoy Museum. What started out to be a fundraiser to provide seed money for the opening of the Decoy Museum has now developed into one of the most important source of income to keep the Decoy Museum open. With this in mind, the Board of Directors and staff at the Decoy Museum would like to thank all of the exhibitors that participate in the Festival. Many have been attending this show since it first started sixteen years ago, other exhibitors are joining us for the first time and we welcome you.

The volunteers that help out during this weekend deserve a large round of applause; what a great show of support from the community. It is wonderful that the Decoy Museum can depend on volunteers in time of demand. The Canvasback magazine also reflects this support. Businesses have supported the Festival by sponsoring a page in the magazine. Other businesses have generously sponsored certain events. These sponsors are; WXCY, Pepsi, Sentman Distributors, Hostetter Agency, Cleaning Solutions Group-Sherwin Williams, Foredom, Cytec, J.M. Huber, and Heckler & Koch. If your company would like to sponsor an event next year, please get in touch with the Museum.

So bring your friends and family to the Festival and enjoy the weekend!

  
Allen J. Fair

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.



# Festival Program

## Dates

May 2, 3, 4, 1997

## Locations

Havre de Grace Middle School, Lewis Lane (MS)

Havre de Grace High School, Congress Avenue (HS)

Havre de Grace High School Cafeteria, Congress Avenue (HSC)

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, Giles Street (MUS)

## 1997 Honorary Chairman

Ronald Rue (MS Gym)

## 1997 Festival Bird

Widgeon

## Admission Price

Decoy Festival Tickets are \$5.00 each per day. \$8.00 for a weekend pass. Children under 12 are admitted FREE.



Art exhibitor in High School Cafeteria. Photo by H. Miles.

## FRIDAY EVENTS, MAY 2

Show 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

## SATURDAY EVENTS, MAY 3

Show 9: a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

6:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Exhibitors Breakfast at the American Legion,

Sponsored by Cleaning Solutions Group Division of Sherwin-Williams



Carving competition pieces at the High School. Photo by H. Miles.

- 10:40 a.m. Gunning Stool Floating Contest (HS Gym)
- 10:40 a.m. Decorative Floating Contest (HS Gym)
- 11:00 a.m., Noon, 1:00 p.m., & 2:00 p.m. Retriever Demonstrations (MUS)
- 12:00 Noon Auction Preview (HS Auditorium)  
*Sponsored by Hostetter, Inc.*
- 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Postal Service Stamp Cancelling & Honorary Autograph Session (MS Library)
- 4:00 p.m. Bidder registration (HS Auditorium)
- 5:30 p.m. Decoy Auction  
*Sponsored by Hostetter, Inc.*

## SUNDAY EVENTS, MAY 4

Show 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- 10:40 a.m. Youth Division Decoy Competition (HS)  
*Sponsored by J.M. Huber*
- 11:10 a.m. Decorative Slick Decoy Contest (HS)
- 11:10 a.m. Gunning Rig Competition Contest (MUS)
- 11:10 a.m. Fish Decoy Competition (HS)
- 1:00 p.m. Head Whittling Contest (MS)  
*Sponsored by Mitchell-Smith Funeral Home*
- 3:00 p.m. Decoy Painting Contest Judging (MS Gym)  
*Sponsored by Cytec*
- 3:45 p.m. Raffle Drawing

Other Sponsors: WXCY, Pepsi, Sentman Distributors, Foredom, Heckler & Koch.

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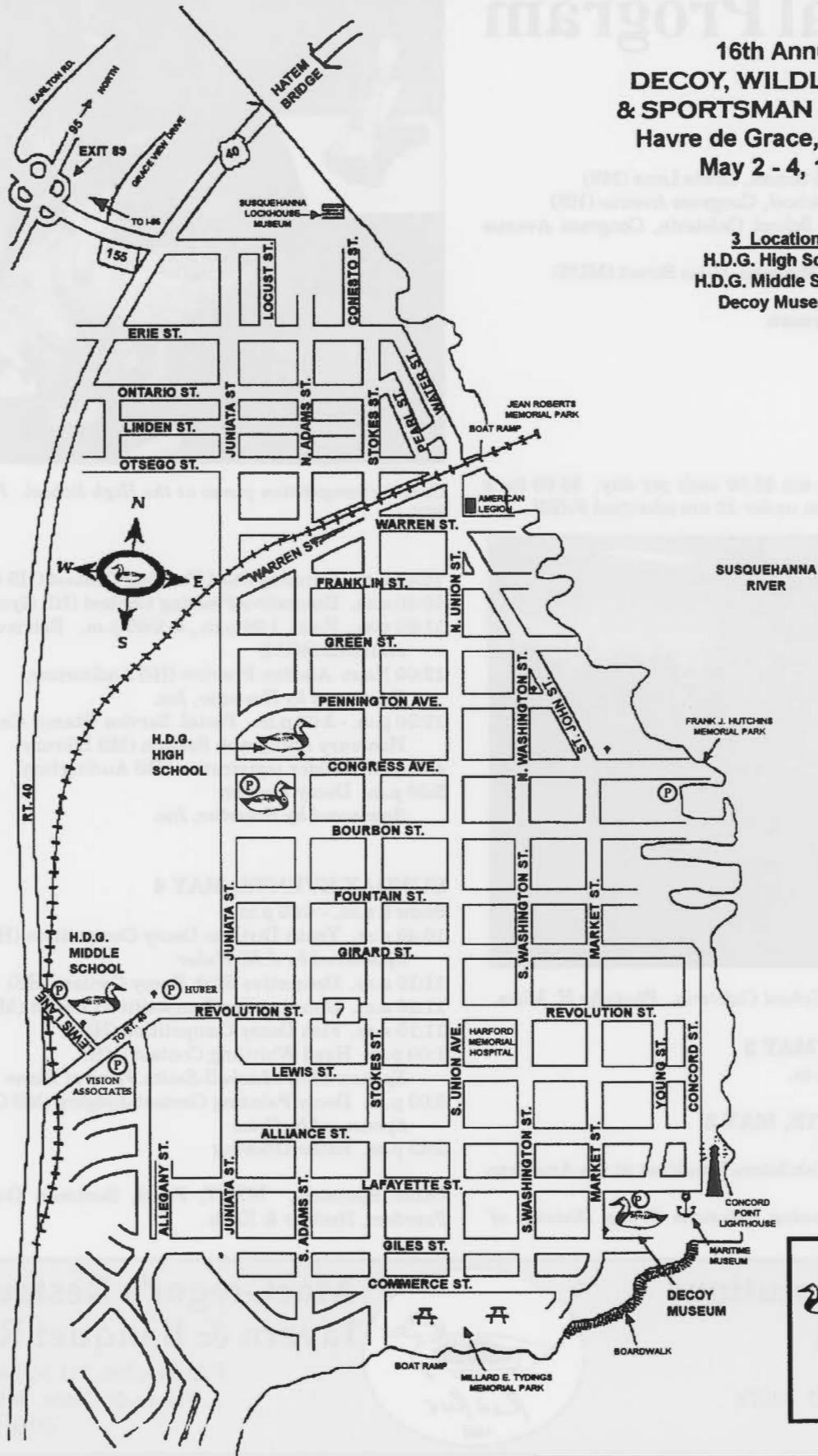


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**DECOY, WILDLIFE ART,  
 & SPORTSMAN FESTIVAL**  
 Havre de Grace, Maryland  
 May 2 - 4, 1997

**3 Locations**  
 H.D.G. High School  
 H.D.G. Middle School  
 Decoy Museum



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-  PARKING
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February 26, 1997



Dear Visitors and Exhibitors:

As Mayor of Havre de Grace, I welcome you to the sixteenth annual Decoy Show. Due to the enthusiasm and support of many volunteers, the Board of Directors, and staff, many significant goals have been accomplished. We take great pride in the quality of the Museum, as well as in the future plans for the expanded tourism facilities all of which will greatly enrich our City and the Show.

Every year we will have new attractions and activities to enhance your visit, such as the Skipjack Martha Lewis and the taxi shuttle boats. The promenade on the waterfront, the Light-house, the Lock House Museum, our marinas, the Downtown Business District with its antique stores, coffee shop and restaurants should complete your visit to the Show and make you want to come back again and again.

I can assure you that the City government, along with the Havre de Grace Tourism Commission, will do everything possible to make your visit here a pleasurable event.

We wish all the exhibitors, carvers, visitors and tourists a pleasant weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gunther Hirsch".

GUNTHER D, HIRSCH, M.D. Mayor

May 2, 1997



Dear Visitors:

Welcome to the city of Havre de Grace. The 16th Annual Decoy, Wildlife Art, and Sportsman Festival is an event the entire community looks forward to and participates in. At the Festival you will soon understand why Havre de Grace is called, "The Decoy Capital of the World." The folk art of decoy carving is still thriving today. With over 250 exhibitors to choose from, you will find decoys and wildlife artwork that fits your style.

Around town, the American Legion has a breakfast Saturday morning that is open to the public for \$4.00 a ticket. Save time to visit the businesses and restaurants downtown and enjoy a stroll on the promenade. The Decoy Museum will be open all weekend, as will the other museums in town.

If you have enjoyed your time in Havre de Grace, stop by the Chamber's office on 224 N. Washington St., to get a listing of events for the summer months. We hope to see you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen J. Fair".

Allen J. Fair President, Chamber of Commerce

# 1997 Honorary Chairman Ronald Rue, Decoy Maker

George Juergens

There is a region deep in southern Maryland, where the mighty Chesapeake Bay entwines its waters with the counties of Somerset, Talbot, and Dorchester, which has been the grounds to millions of waterfowl for many years. Given the abundance of waterfowl, this area has also produced many well-known decoy makers such as the Ward Brothers, Ed Parsons, Ed Phillips, the

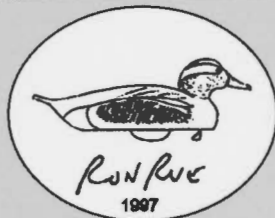
Elliott Brothers, and more contemporary makers such as Dan Brown, Oliver Lawson and Ron Rue, to name a few. This article focuses on Ron Rue who has graciously honored the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum by becoming the 1997 Decoy Show Honorary Chairman. I have known Mr. Rue for several years and am delighted with the opportunity to share a brief insight of this gentle-



*Ronald Rue painting a decoy using a taxidermy mount. Picture taken in 1970. Photo courtesy of Ronald Rue.*

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*Decorative dove.*

man and quality decoy maker. I have always found him fun to be with, witty and quick with stories of his early years.

Mr Ronald Rue was born on November 4, 1931, and has lived his entire life in Cambridge,



*Dead goose.*

Dorchester County, Maryland. Ron started hunting, or as he says, "shooting" waterfowl in high school. As he puts it, "we would go up to Dayton's restaurant and listen to find out where the local men were going that day and knowing they had a blind, we would go shoot it." Ron did a lot of marsh duck shooting from blinds and some offshore shooting for canvasbacks, redheads, blackheads

or whatever ducks came into range. "We would just grab our guns, some shells and a bucket of corn and be on our way." According to Ron, Maryland State allowed baiting no closer than 250 yards of your blind and I am certain Ron and his friends measured it out on each hunt. They would shoot ducks from the



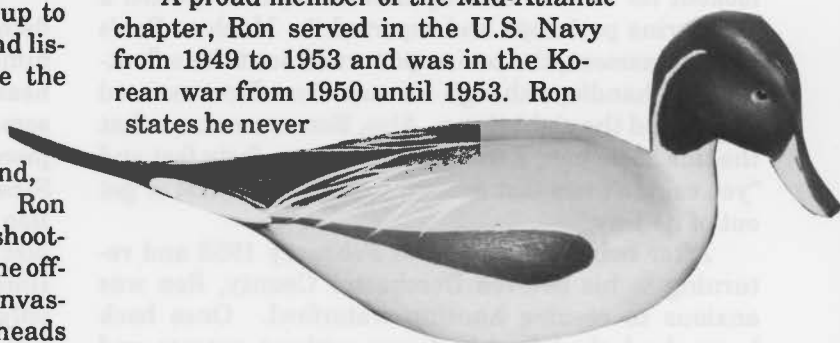
*Hooded merganser.*

time they arrived on the Eastern Shore and quit hunting when the ducks headed back north.

Ron made his first decoys around 1948 to supplement his rig of decoys which was comprised of decoy bodies he found and heads he would make for them. According to Ron, there were plenty of decoys around in those days and a lot of dealing going on with decoys. The first decoys he made were mostly canvasbacks, redheads and blackheads.

Early in 1949, Ron and his gunning buddies were riding down the street in Cambridge and saw some decoys in a store front window. Ron thought then that these were the prettiest decoys he had ever seen, but the store owner came out and said, "you boys can't afford these decoys, they are \$5.00 each." Later he found out, those decoys were made by two brothers from Crisfield, Lem and Steve Ward.

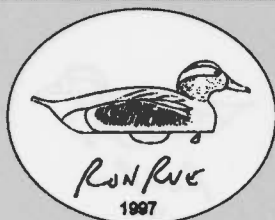
A proud member of the Mid-Atlantic chapter, Ron served in the U.S. Navy from 1949 to 1953 and was in the Korean war from 1950 until 1953. Ron states he never



*Pintail.*

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June 1969. Bill Mackey (center) reaches for Ron's mallard hen, that had been gunned over for thirteen years; it came in 2nd place.

saw more sea ducks than he saw in that area of the world. He recalls one day aboard ship during the Inchon invasion, the Captain told everyone to be on the lookout for mines. Shortly thereafter, Ron spotted a submarine periscope and reported it. Much to Ron's embarrassment, the periscope turned out to be a floating mop handle, although his superior officer assured him he did the right thing. Also, Ron remembers that the tide at Inchon, Korea raised thirty to forty feet and "you couldn't run fast enough to keep up with it or get out of its way."

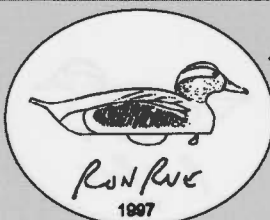
After being discharged in February 1953 and returning to his beloved Dorchester County, Ron was anxious to resume hunting waterfowl. Once back home, he looked for his decoys without success and figured they were either sold or given away by his

brother Smitty. Once again, Ron started making more decoys for his hunting rig. Although most of these were made from wood, a few were made from cork.

In 1953 or 1954, Ron made his first decorative decoy, a merganser. When completed, he thought to himself "how can you get any better than this?" Having heard of the Ward Brothers from Crisfield and seeing some of their work, Ron decided to take his "masterpiece" down to Crisfield to show them how well he did. Steve Ward opened the door and asked Ron to come in. Ron looked down and saw a merganser decoy that was just finished by the Wards and was to be shipped to Illinois. After seeing this merganser, Ron knew that he only had "kindling wood" and left his carving outside on a rock. Steve asked Ron "what do you have there boy?" After showing him his carving, Steve had only praises

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for Ron's work and from this time on, a good relationship developed between him and the Wards. Ron is quick to say the Wards would never criticize a bird; they would only offer suggestions, if asked. The Wards were true gentlemen who were always willing to help the

new and upcoming carvers. After that first visit, Ron would go see the Wards about once a month. At one point, he missed a visit or two and the Wards being concerned, sent someone to check on him. These visits and his friendship with the brothers attest to the



Painting by George Wright featured on the cover of Wildfowl Art. The painting depicts Ronald Rue examining the youth's decoy.

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*Don and Helen Bell visit Ron Rue's exhibit at the 1996 Easton Festival. Photo courtesy of George Juergens.*

Ward's influence on Rue's carvings.

Ron continued making decoys each year, expanding and refining his work into beautifully carved decorative pieces and working decoys. Although small by today's standards, his total production has only reached about 4,000 of just about all species of waterfowl and shorebirds. All these were hatcheted out one at a time as Ron does not use a lathe. He has also carved many miniature ducks, geese, swans of various sizes and a few fish pins. Ron and his brother Smitty also made thousands of goose silhouettes.

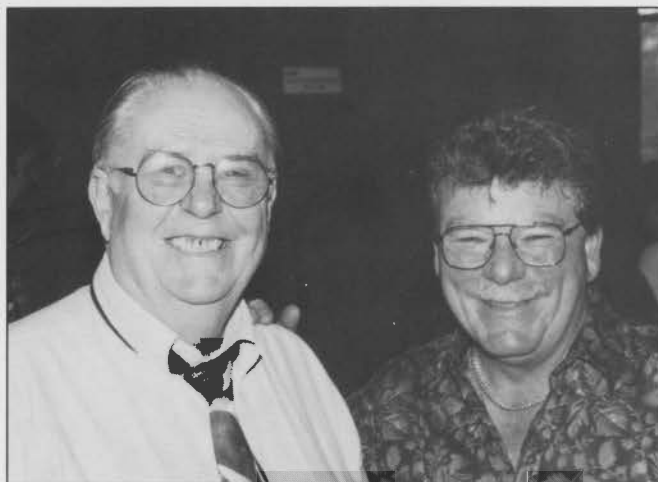
During my interview with Mr. Rue, he loved to reflect back and tell stories of his past. He remembers a story from a Cambridge friend of his who has been collecting and dealing decoys for a long time. This friend was serving in the U.S. Army in the early 1950's and received a letter from his grandmother. She mentioned there was a nice young boy who stopped by and cleaned out her garage for \$5.00. As it turns out, this "nice boy" was Smitty Rue. When Ron's friend read this letter, he fell back in his bunk and thought, "I'm ruined," because he kept all his decoys in his grandmother's garage. According to Ron, his brother was just getting a lot of his decoys back with a little interest.

Ron was an exhibitor at the first Easton Waterfowl Festival, in 1971. Setting up his table in preparation for the first day of the show, the exhibitor next to Ron had three carvings on his table and four signs saying

"DO NOT TOUCH." Ron went home that night and made his sign for the opening morning of the show which said, "PLEASE TOUCH." Ron says, "you know, people, like to touch and look your decoys over and I get enjoyment from people who appreciate my work." Ron asserts that it, "wouldn't bother him even when kids came in and handled my birds; they were learning."

Since that first Easton show, Ron has been an exhibitor every year. He has seen this show grow and attributes its success to two things: the town and county support of the show, and the public interest which encourages the exhibitors to do their very best. This author is certain that all those who attend the 1997 Havre de Grace show, meet Mr. Rue and look over his work, will agree that Ron did not disappoint anyone at the Easton show. Ron's carvings have won numerous contests and have lured many live waterfowl within range of hunters' guns. His carvings are much in demand and can be found in collections throughout the United States. Ron has been featured in many decoy publications and also teaches decoy carving and painting in Cambridge.

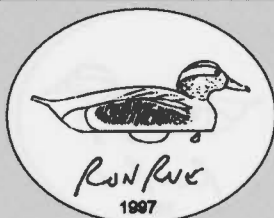
Mr. Rue is one of those notable decoy makers who have that special personality that compliments their ability. When ability and personality are in sync, then you have those special decoy makers the likes of Bob Litzenberg, Charlie Bryan, Jim Pierce, the Ward Brothers, for example, who are our Maryland treasures. Stop by the show in May and meet Ron and I'm certain you will agree when I say — Ron Rue is also one of our Maryland treasures and a true Chesapeake Bay classic!



*Ron and the author at the 1996 Easton Festival.*

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# FESTIVAL EXHIBITOR

## Jim Taylor

### 1997/98 Maryland Duck Stamp Contest Winner

Mary Jo Murphy

What a pleasant coincidence to write about Jim Taylor, and then find out that his acrylic painting, "Return to the Chesapeake," is the winner of the 1997/98 Maryland Duck Stamp Contest. This painting, featuring two flying canvasbacks, one of Jim's favorite species, was one of fifty-five entries from Maryland artists. This is the fifteenth year that Jim has entered the contest; a great example of hard work and persistence paying off.

Jim Taylor has been attending the Havre de Grace Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival as an exhibitor since 1985. The first year was a learning experience, Jim had brought a sheet to drape over the table, handmade business cards, and only six or seven paint-

ings to sell. Even though Jim felt a little overwhelmed, the festival committee members were helpful, (especially James Pierce, says Jim), exhibitors were friendly, and the crowd was plentiful. Each year Jim improved his display, brought more artwork, and has his regular space in the Middle School cafeteria, table 184. Jim has now added limited edition prints to the selection of artwork.

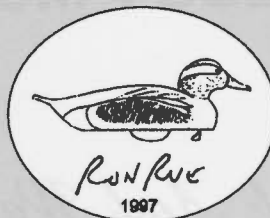
The clarity of Jim Taylor's paintings is refreshing; the artwork is so crisp and clean you wonder how this could possibly be painted with a million brush strokes. A favorite of mine, "Tranquil Companions - Tundra Swans" is truly a peaceful look at these creatures. One look at the painting makes the viewer instantly forget



"Swans"

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#### Katydid's

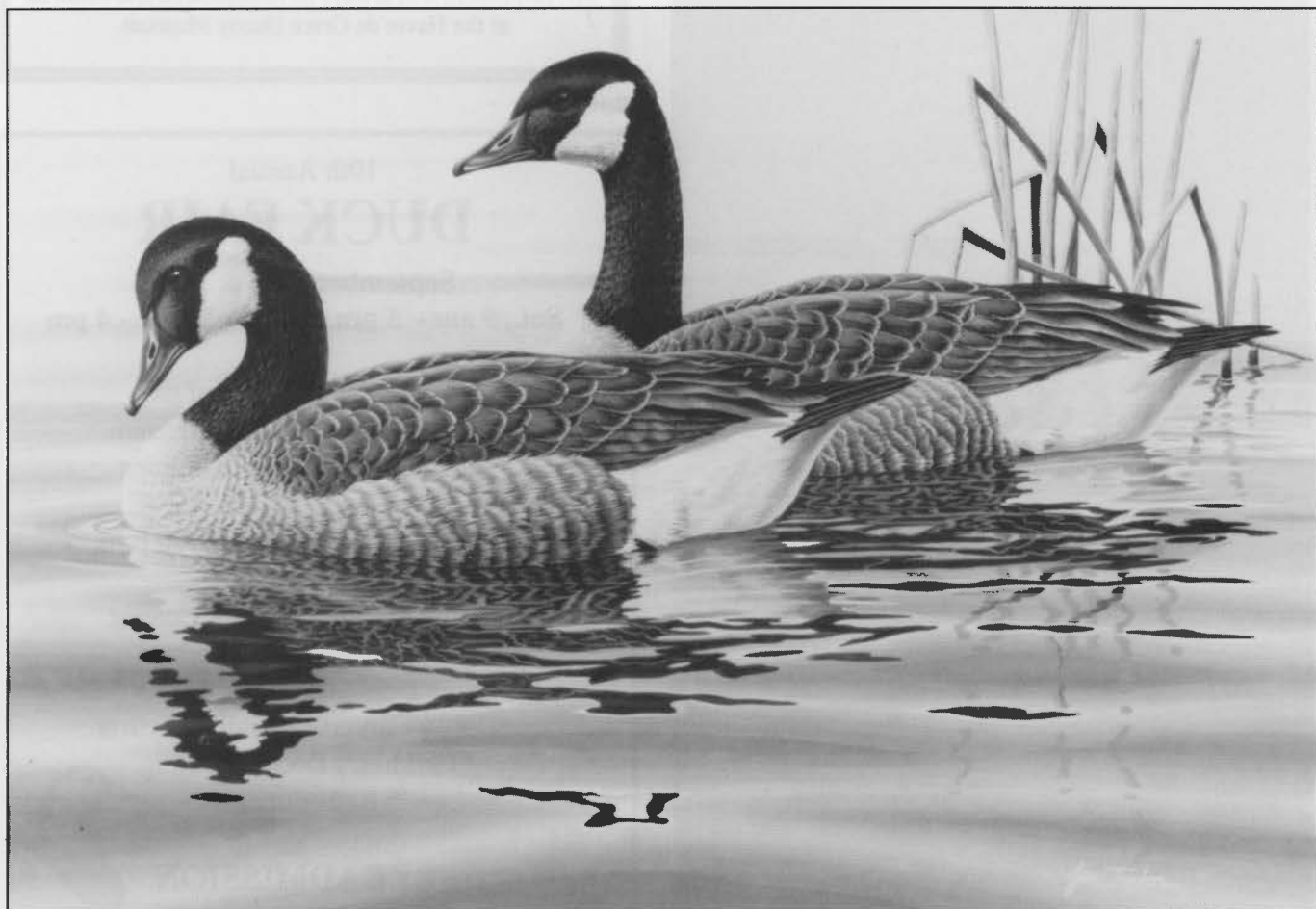
208 N. Washington Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
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any worries. The blue layers of water relay just how crisp and cold the water must be. The ripples are almost graphic in nature, creating a wonderful depth and texture to the painting. The swans glide effortlessly through the water, alert but sensing no danger. The realistic portrayal of the swans enables the viewer to admire Jim's talent as well as appreciate his knowledge. Jim's careful attention to balance and placement ensures the strength of the overall composition.

Jim works mainly with acrylics and gets his research materials primarily from his own photos at such places as the Horsehead Sanctuary and the National Zoo. He also supplements his resources by buying slides from professional photographers. Before each painting, Jim sketches out the image. Then working on clayboard, Jim starts on the background first, then he may draw the waterfowl on a piece of tissue paper and

move it around to decide the placement. Jim accentuates his colors by building up the color layer by layer, then glazes over it with a light gray or light pink. Occasionally, Jim will use a little air brushing to soften the colors in the water ripples or the clouds, but never on the waterfowl. Lighting is important in the painting, a direct light source from a sunset or a sunrise adds a lot of drama to the piece. Last year Jim painted a red-tailed hawk that was quite a challenge because of all of the colors; the reds, browns, and golds. The piece was more work than expected, but the end result was worth it.

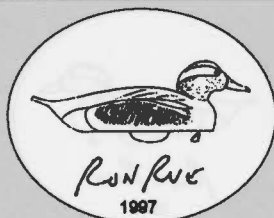
Born and raised in Betterton in Kent County on Maryland's eastern shore, Jim has been painting since he was a young boy. Growing up in Kent County, Jim was exposed to the artwork of Jack Schroeder, Louis Frisino, and the carvings of Charlie Joiner. A 1983



*Resting Mates.*

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graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art, Jim's favorite subject matter for many of his college paintings was wildlife, especially waterfowl. In his senior year, Jim entered and won the 1983 Maryland State Trout Stamp design competition at the age of twenty-one. This honor opened his eyes to the world of wildlife art. Other awards include his painting "Bay Dreamer" depicting a Labrador retriever was chosen as the Maryland Ducks Unlimited Sponsor print. In 1992, a painting of a jumping rainbow trout won the Maryland Trout Stamp design competition. Additional waterfowl shows Jim has shown in include, Easton Waterfowl Festival, Patuxent Wildlife Artists Show, and the Ward Foundation Wildfowl Art Show. Jim works professionally as a



*Jim Taylor.*



*Canvasback Portrait.*

graphic designer for IWIF Insurance in Towson, Maryland and makes his home in Perry Hall, Maryland.

If you have not seen Jim's work, visit him during the Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival in the Middle School cafeteria. Take a step back and enjoy the view of the waterfowl. Congratulations, Jim on winning the 1997/98 Maryland Duck Stamp Contest. The best of luck to you.

We regretfully announce that  
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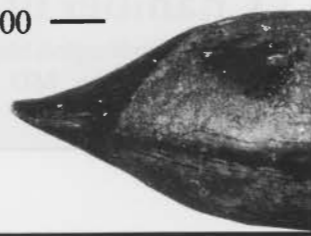
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# FESTIVAL Exhibitor

## Len Burcham

Arlene Grace

It is always nice to be surprised. I have known Len on a casual basis, but it was very enlightening to talk with him about his life and times in Havre de Grace. He is not only a decoy carver, hunter, and fisherman, but also a model boat builder and Chesapeake Bay preservationist.

Len Burcham was born and raised in Harford County and has spent most of his life in Havre de Grace. Since his father had no interest in hunting, fishing or boating, his grandfather became his biggest influence in his early years. Len's theory on this is "The Generation Jump." He believes that certain interests or trends skip a generation. To prove his point he states that his children, two daughters and a son, seem to show little interest in his pastimes. Through his love of water oriented activities, Len became an avid boater, fisherman and hunter. He has held a commercial fishing license, though now, he is only a recreational fisherman. Len's pride and joy was his 36' working fishing boat, the "Hard Times." He has even

made a model of it.

Len was a frequent hunter of ducks and geese on the Susquehanna Flats, as well as other local areas, such as Elk Neck and Otter Point. In the early days, the whole area was a hunter's wonderland. However, due to human constraints on ever shrinking habitats, environmental damage due to Hurricane Agnes, that too waned. Len's most active hunting years were at the change over from ducks to geese. For whatever reason, automated farming attracting the geese, loss of grasses for the ducks, etc., the duck population faded and the goose population dominated. Len asserts that even when canvasbacks were "the bird" (they were the duck of choice for hunters and local commercialization), a hunter would always take a goose if the opportunity presented itself.

Although he lived within a few blocks of the region's most renowned carvers, R. Madison Mitchell, Jim Currier, etc., and knew them on a personal basis, he did not become serious about decoy carving until about 1970. At that time, gunning decoys were finding new homes on peoples' shelves as folk art collectibles. Also, the old time carvers were winding down their operations. Len had dabbled with making decoys early on for his own use, but admits they were pretty basic. After all, they were good enough to fool the ducks and that was all that mattered.

A neighbor of Len's, Dick Hipple, was the person most instrumental in encouraging his carving. Dick Hipple was a skillful, seasoned waterman and well known for his boat making. In addition, Dick made a rig of decoys for himself and his son. He gave Len the original set of patterns for his decoys (which Len has loaned to the Decoy Museum to make archival copies).

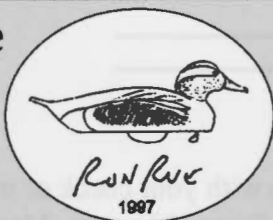
Len admits he needed encouragement at first, but Dick told him, "No two damn ducks are alike, why should two decoys be alike?" With this in mind, he began to concentrate on enjoying carving instead of worrying about making production line birds. He is



*Len Burcham's exhibit at a recent Havre de Grace Decoy Festival. Photo courtesy of Len Burcham.*

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quick to tell you that production is not the main focus of his carving. Not a formally trained carver, he "did his own thing" to invent his personal style. Though carving is a hobby and not his livelihood, he still worries about the results of his work, as seems universal with all carvers. He is always changing or improving in some way.

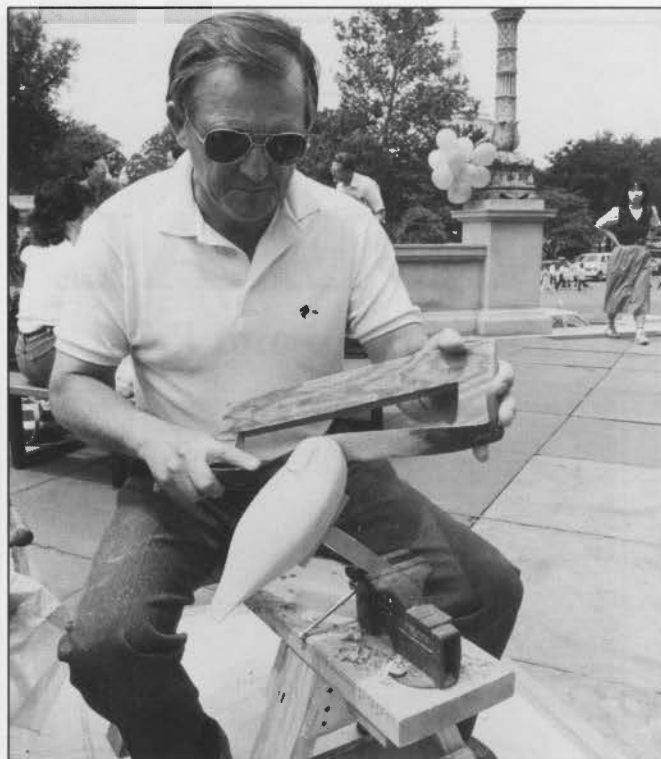
Len likes the feel of the wood. It is only natural then that he does the bulk of his carving by hand with knives. A typical process will be to take the wood and blank out the body on a lathe, draw-knife more body detailing and then spoke-shave it. All heads are hand whittled. Len is not fond of painting and finds that process to be the most challenging. For this reason, he creates many natural wood birds where he can concentrate on the carving aspects. Although he is well equipped to do any type of carving, he does not consider himself a decorative carver and keeps to the slick and traditional style of decoys. His favorite bird to do is the blackhead (lesser scaup or bluebill, whichever you prefer). When asked about whether his carving style is more Harford County or Cecil County, he was quick to say that his style was "more middle of the river."

Another related project of decoy making has been to design his own molds to cast miniature lead weight birds. He makes hen and drake canvasbacks and mallards. They were featured in a Smithsonian Christmas catalog one year . . . without Len knowing!

When he gets tired of making decoys, he puts them aside and makes model boats. This sideline came about from all the scraps of wood left over from decoy carving. He limits the boat making to Chesapeake Bay boats. He has used his boat making expertise to help on a project to restore a burned model boat.

The model boat making was a surprise to me. Two of the boats are prominently displayed in Len's living room and they are spectacular. I was drawn to them immediately. Their detailing is superb. Apparently the tools he does not use for decorative decoy carving, he uses on these boats! I can't imagine how the fine detailing was achieved.

Another influence on Len was his friend, Jerry Parsons, who worked in Washington for the Library of Congress. They met at a decoy show in the mid-80's where Len was exhibiting. Through Jerry, he became involved with carving demonstrations at the Smithsonian and the Library of Congress. Len has many fond memories of his late friend. Their numerous



*Len Burcham demonstrates his craft at the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival in 1986. Photo courtesy of Len Burcham.*

hunting adventures were quite haphazardly and funny. Len was very grateful for these special carving sessions and met a wider variety of people who otherwise would not have been exposed to the carving experience. He showed me a black duck from his china cupboard and told how Dan Quayle, then a Junior Senator, had inquired about the bird. Len said he could not sell it because he intended to give it to his wife. Guess that was one bird ol' Quayle couldn't flush out!

Len has been involved with the formation of legislative bills to help protect fishing on the bay. Len had previously been active with the Maryland's Waterman's Association with regards to area fisheries when he held a commercial fishing license.

With the advent of the founding of the Decoy Museum, he became a Life member, an exhibitor at our shows (only missed one) and a Weekend Carver. His love of carving and demonstrating it to others have been the high points of his efforts. He has been greatly moved by the people he has met, who have enjoyed the experience right along with him.

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# DECOY FESTIVAL VISITORS

## Carl and Lucille Nierzwicki

David R. Kent

I recently had the pleasure of visiting a couple that are Decoy Festival regulars. As you approach the house on the hill, on the winding dirt road, you are not surprised that a decoy collector and duck hunter lives there. It is a beautiful tri-level lodge clinging to the ledge overlooking a small lake in Southern Vermont. Carl and Lucille Nierzwicki, live there with their extensive collection of decoys and hunting-related artifacts. Carl explained that when he retired from his business ventures in 1992 while still living in Bethesda, Maryland; his dream was to buy a little "fishing shack" in Vermont as a summer home. As he searched the state for the perfect place, he grew to love the area so much that he decided to move to the Green Mountain state permanently.

At that time, Carl probably had 150 decoys and was



Carl Nierzwicki with part of his collection. Photo courtesy of David R. Kent.

adding to the collection steadily. He is emphatic that a collector and lover of decoys should live among his birds, not relegate them to a basement or outbuilding. "Some people collect stamps and coins and keep them out of sight or even in safe deposit boxes," Carl said. "Decoys need to be on display so that you can admire them, pick them up, heft them and feel the contours and texture of the bird." Indeed, on the ground level of the Nierzwicki home, they are part of the decor, blending in with the pine paneling, barn board and fieldstone fireplace. Lucille displays them to the best advantage, adding hunting related artifacts and mixing in miniatures for contrast. Carl includes some of his professionally mounted birds bagged in hunts of the past. Originally the collection was confined to this room, but it has spilled over into the adjacent den and even upstairs to the living room.

Carl was born in Chicago and hunted ducks and geese in Illinois and Wisconsin as a boy and teenager. One of his fondest recollections is the annual "Coot Shoot" on Grass Lake in Illinois to which his Uncle Harry took him and his cousin Robert every year. Hunters from all over the area would converge on the lake in October when thousands of coots were feeding. They would arrive early in the morning and position themselves, two in a boat about seventy-five yards apart all over the lake. At the sound of a cannon fired, when everyone was ready, they all blazed away at the hapless coots, felling them by the dozens.

After a hitch in the Navy, where he saw action in the Pacific, Carl returned to Chicago and graduated from Northwestern University. As an employee of Motorola, he was transferred to Washington, D.C. in 1954 where he met Lucille, married and took up residence in Bethesda, Maryland. He soon met other duck hunters, joined the Izaak Walton League, a conservation organization, and hunted locally in the Chesapeake Bay, Potomac River, and even into the city limits of Washington. He and some friends leased a blind on Kent Island where they hunted for ten years. They

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used a variety of decoys, old hand-me-downs, papermaché ducks, and some carved by a fellow hunter, Joe Fitzwater, which intrigued him for their utilitarian beauty. As he became more familiar with the Chesapeake area, he noted lots of Madison Mitchell decoys being used there. One day, Carl came across a bushel basket of canvasbacks, bluebills, and redheads by Mitchell selling for \$25 dollars each. He bought the whole basket and realized he had started his collection. They were too nice to hunt over!

As his collection grew, Carl began to collect the works of other Chesapeake Bay area carvers as well as many from Virginia, New Jersey, and Delaware. Some of his favorites are Mitchell, Litzenberg, Charlie Bryan, the Wards, and John Mulak, a carver from Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts; who carves his own gunning decoys with unusual detail and relief. For decoratives, Bob Thau of Kent Island, Maryland, is his carver of choice. The Nierzwickis have been members of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum since 1991, and have been going to the Decoy, Wildlife Art, & Sportsman Festival for about seven years. They especially like the auctions where many of the pieces in their collection were purchased. Like any other decoy collector, Carl is always on the prowl for the elusive and rare "big one" at antique stores, flea markets, yard sales, and country auctions.

Carl and Lucille have succeeded in putting together a beautiful and well-integrated collection of both gun-

ning and decorative decoys that reflects their love and extensive knowledge of the subject. It is artfully displayed in a charming home, truly an inspiration to collectors everywhere. Carl explained his philosophy and advice to the new collector. "First, understand the use and history of the decoy, especially as it relates to your local area. Start there and develop a collection around what was used there, the carvers who lived and still live there. Study the classics, appreciate form and function, and buy what is pleasing to your eye and affordable." Wise advice from a man who has put it to good use.



*A favorite decoy by Bob Thau, Kent Island. Photo courtesy of Carl Nierzwicki.*



*A pair of mergansers made by John Mulak, from the collection of the Nierzwickis. Photo courtesy of Carl Nierzwicki.*

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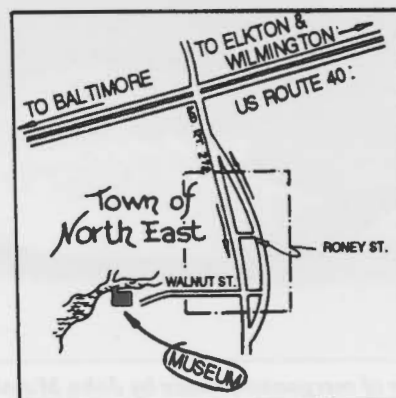
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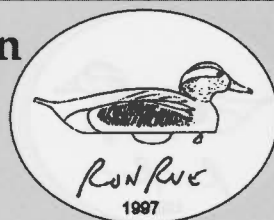
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HS-29, 30

MICHAEL N. MCNAMEE  
114 FAIRMONT DR  
BEL AIR, MD 21014  
410-893-5845  
HS-65

PETE MICCICHE  
714 SUSAN ST  
MILLVILLE, DE 19970  
302-537-0679  
HS-80

CHARLOTTE S. MOFFATT  
3711 JOY LANE  
WALDORF, MD 20603  
301-645-5610  
HS-57, 58

JEFF MOORE  
153 OLD ELM RD  
NORTHEAST, MD 21901  
410-398-2041  
HS-7, 8

JOHN V. NICKLE  
112 N HOWARD ST  
NORTH EAST, MD 21901  
410-287-8456  
HS-69

TOLLIVER ODEN  
245 THIRD AVE  
LANSDOWNE, MD 21227  
410-247-1563  
HS-86

BILL& ANNA PAYNE  
1022 HANSON WAY  
VA BEACH, VA 23454  
804-496-9185  
HS-75

CHARLES PRINZ  
458 BLUE RIDGE DR  
DAYTON, OH 45415  
513-276-3506  
HS-13

KAREN C. PRUITT  
P O BOX 152  
NASSAWADOX, VA 23413  
757-442-2727  
HS-17, 18

FRANK RAUSCHER  
1361 KAREN LANE  
RADNOR, PA 19087  
610-964-0642  
HS-63, 64

JACK G. ROBINSON  
2108 ANSON RD  
WILMINGTON, DE 19810  
302-475-2581  
HS-87

LOST BAY CARVINGS  
LINDA & BILL RUTH  
9463 DORAL DR  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237  
412-366-5926  
HS-27

NICK SAPONE  
P O BOX 33  
WANCHESE, NC 27981  
919-473-3136  
HS-77

RICHARD F. SCHEPIS  
2808 WOOLLEY RD  
WALL, NJ 07719  
908-681-5777  
HS-88

GEORGE S. SEMPLE  
302 HARVARD AVE  
COLLINGSWOOD, NJ 08108  
609-854-8036  
HS-14

JOSEPH F. SHORTALL, JR.  
9792 FOY RD  
DENTON, MD. 21629  
410-820-9008  
HS-15

DAVID M. STAVELY  
40 MT PLEASANT AVE  
EASTON, MD 21601  
410-822-3115  
HS-48

DONALD F. STOREY  
222 MEADOWCROFT LANE  
MEDIA, PA 19063  
610-876-3646  
HS-85

BOB& SUSAN THAU  
108 TOUHEY DR  
STEVENSVILLE, MD 21666  
410-974-3741  
HS-25

COZY CUPBOARD  
MARY LOU TROUTMAN  
P O BOX 230  
DAMERON, MD 20628  
301-872-5807  
HS-9, 10

EARL & JEAN VANDERVEER  
45 OLD YORK RD  
YARDVILLE, NJ 08620  
609-298-9695  
HS-49

WILLIAM VEASEY  
16 GILL DR  
NEWARK, DE 19713  
302-738-5451  
HS-53, 54

TRICIA VEASEY  
31 PALOMINO PLACE  
ELKTON, MD 21921  
410-398-7487  
HS-76

BARB WACHTER  
109 N EARLTON RD  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-1904  
HS-56

DAVID M. WELSH  
572 BUTTONWOOD FARM RD  
MILLERSVILLE, PA 17551  
717-872-5009  
HS-84

ELIZABETH WELSH  
1521 DOWN ST  
MEDIA, PA 19063  
610-565-5859  
HS-87

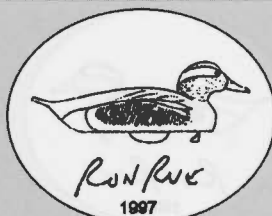
CHRISTOPHER WHITE  
70 WATERWHEEL DR  
PORT DEPOSIT, MD. 21904  
410-939-4779  
HS-3

JOHN L. WILLIAMS  
23 STONE HILL RD  
WESTMINSTER, MA 01425  
508-874-0216  
HS-28

PAUL WOLF, SR  
RD 6 BOX 133 SUGARMAN RD  
COATESVILLE, PA 19320  
610-383-8676  
HS-12

## A.R. Burdette, Inc.

3729 Aldino Rd.  
Aberdeen, MD 21001  
(410) 734-7740



## Super 8 Motel

929 Pulaski Highway  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
(410) 939-1880  
FAX (410) 939-1880, EXT. 402

# 1997 HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY, WILDLIFE ART, AND SPORTSMAN FESTIVAL EXHIBITOR LIST

## High School Cafeteria (HSC)

ANN BONNER  
704 WINANS WAY  
BALTIMORE, MD 21229  
410-233-6791  
HSC-1

DAVID BRADBURY  
4 SPLIT RAIL LANE  
MARLTON, NJ 08053  
609-596-2077  
HSC-7, 8

MICHAEL BROCK  
308 ARBOUR DR  
NEWARK, DE 19713  
302-366-0252  
HSC-12

MICHAEL BUDDEN  
P O BOX 69  
COLUMBUS, NJ 08022  
609-298-4619  
HSC-19, 20

RICHARD E. CHRISTIAN  
P O BOX 1278  
LITCHFIELD, CT 06759  
HSC-21, 23 (TO BE 23A, 23B)

RICHARD CLIFTON  
RD 1 BOX 226F  
MILFORD, DE 19963  
302-684-1043  
HSC-18

TONI-KAY DYE  
230 STRAWBRIDGE AVE  
WESTMONT, NJ 08108  
609-854-2049  
HSC-3

BETTY FOOTE  
1430 JOHN ST  
BALTIMORE, MD 21217  
410-523-6086  
HSC-6

CHERYL GIANDALIA  
11 15 KIRK RD. APT 1 -S  
ELKTON, MD 21921  
410-620-1081  
HSC-11A

BRADLEY JACKSON  
BOX 206-1179 RESERVOIR RD  
PERKINSVILLE, VT 05151  
802-263-5240  
HSC-15, 16

NATURE'S IMAGES BY SOL  
LEVINE  
110 SKYLARK WAY  
RALEIGH, NC 27615  
919-676-3740  
HSC-17

EARL & PAT MARTZ  
HCR1 BOX 99A  
VOWINKEL, PA 16260  
814-927-8659  
HSC-22

VALERIE LLOYD'S STUDIO/  
WILLIAM R. MUNION  
37 PIERSON PL.  
NEW CASTLE, DE 19720  
302-328-4748  
HSC-2

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY/  
JOHN OREHOVEC  
P O BOX DJ  
WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23187  
757-229-9585  
HSC-11

TAYLOR OUGHTON  
P O BOX 355  
JAMISON, PA 18929  
215-598-3246  
HSC-11B, 12A

LAWRENCE PITMAN  
4674-A OCEAN PINES  
BERLIN, MD 21811  
410-641-5732  
HSC-10

EDWARD ROBINSON  
11 748 LONE TREE CT  
COLUMBIA, MD. 21044  
410-715-0039  
HSC-4

THOMAS H. SHIVELY  
8 TEE JAY DR  
MT HOLLY SPRINGS, PA 17065  
717-486-7655  
HSC-14

NEIL SNODGRASS  
226 GEORGE ST  
CHESAPEAKE CITY, MD 21915  
410-885-5094  
HSC-5

CARRIAGE SHOPPE  
BRADLEY SNYDER  
25 HIGHVIEW DR  
HANOVER, PA 17331  
717-632-3864  
HSC-24, 25

HARBOUR VIEW STUDIOS/  
HUDSON WILLIAMS  
211 ROANOKE DR  
KILL DEVIL HILLS, NC 27948  
919-441-2925  
HSC-9



1996 Decoy Festival, breakfast at American Legion.

## Middle School (MS)

ANCHOR WOODCRAFTS-  
PAULINE ABSHER  
501 STONY HILL RD  
QUARRYVILLE, PA 17566  
717-786-2246  
MS-187

LINDA AMTMANN  
411 VOGTS LANE  
BALTIMORE, MD 21221  
410-391-1217  
MS-106, 107

BRUCE APPELL  
12 HILLMAN CT  
ABERDEEN, MD 21001  
410-272-3839  
MS-134

J. MALCOLM BAHRENBURG  
9 BUTLER LANE  
MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748  
908-671-0649  
MS-90A

PAULA J. BARONNER  
331 DURANT ST  
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15906  
814-535-2464  
MS-1 92

CLARENCE BAUER  
742 LINDEN LANE  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-5191  
MS-73, 74

## The Friendly Oil Company

1751 Pulaski Highway  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
(410) 939-3300



## A Touch of Glass

300 St. John Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
(410) 939-0855



# 1997 HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY, WILDLIFE ART, AND SPORTSMAN FESTIVAL EXHIBITOR LIST

## Middle School (MS)

DONNA BELINKO  
105 CROYDON RD  
BALTIMORE, MD 21212  
410-377-2191  
MS-70

BEATRICE BERLE  
P O BOX 546  
COROLLA, NC 27927  
919-453-2718  
MS-9, 10

G. DAVID BLACKISTON  
300 TRUSLOW RD  
CHESTERTOWN, MD 21620  
410-778-0943  
MS-19

LARRY F. BLOSS  
11 907 HOMEWOOD ST NW  
CUMBERLAND, MD 21502  
301-777-0743  
MS-111

BRYON BODT  
2917 CHURCHVILLE RD  
CHURCHVILLE, MD 21028  
410-734-7702  
MS-65, 66

CLOVIS & RAMONA BOLEN  
749 TYDINGS RD  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-0910  
MS-1

ART BOXLEITNER  
18 MAIN ST  
WILLOW STREET, PA 17584  
717-464-2513  
MS-1 32, 133

JIM BRITTON  
2707 PINERIDGE LANE  
POWHATAN, VA 23139  
804-598-4370  
MS-194

MIKE DEDEKIND  
2212 FAIRVIEW ST  
WEST LAWN, PA 19609  
610-678-9380  
MS-20

LAURA DENARDO  
3404 ELLIOTT ST  
BALTIMORE, MD 21224  
410-558-1493  
MS-24, 25

IVIE & JOHN ELLIOTT  
573 BLOUNT RD  
ELIZABETH CITY, NC 27909  
919-338-5641  
MS-112

DECOY MAGAZINE/JOE  
ENGERS  
P O BOX 277  
BURTONSVILLE, MD 20866  
301-890-0262  
MS-75

NED EWELL  
4 MOOREPARK CT  
COCKEYSVILLE, MD 21030  
410-666-1841  
MS-1 08, 109

WILLIAM FAIX  
19 SCHOOL HOUSE LANE  
NORTH EAST, MD 21901  
410-287-2033  
MS-21

DAVID L FANNON  
14048 LEE HIGHWAY  
AMISSVILLE, VA 20106  
540-937-4675  
MS-83, 84

CLARENCE FENNIMORE  
250 SCHOOLHOUSE RD  
WRIGHTSTOWN, NJ 08562  
609-758-7272  
MS-78

LEONARD E. FERGUSON, SR.  
100 FRANCIS ST  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-3818  
MS-159, 160

HENRY FLECKENSTEIN JR  
P O BOX 577  
CAMBRIDGE, MD 21613  
410-221-0076  
MS-68, 69

FRANK & FRANK SPORTING  
COLLECTIBLES  
422 LAKEWOOD  
FARMINGDALE RD  
HOWELL, NJ 07731  
908-938-2988  
MS-138

LOUIS FRISINO  
1375 DISCUS MILL RD  
SEVERN, MD 21144  
410-987-1464  
MS-103, 104

JOYCE C. GAGEN  
6 CRAGMOOR DR  
VINCENTOWN, NJ 08088  
609-268-1926  
MS-176, 177

VERNON BRYANT  
90 GREENBANK RD  
PERRYVILLE, MD 21903  
410-287-8548  
MS-164, 165 +OUTSIDE MS

LINDA & WES BULL  
2317 BOWERSOX RD  
NEW WINDSOR, MD 21776  
410-875-2260  
MS-139, 140

LEONARD BURCHAM  
703 MARKET ST  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-2971  
MS-45, 46

BLAINE W. BUSH  
350 MAGNOLIA RD  
PEMBERTON, NJ 08068  
609-894-8681  
MS-89

DANIEL MARK LEE CARSON  
14 MATTE LANE  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-5723  
MS-82

JOHN H CLARK  
1620 CHAPEL RD  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-5889  
MS-55, 56

RICHARD & BARBARA CLARK  
206 SPRING LAKE RD  
WILDWOOD, FL 34785  
352-748-5466  
MS-90

WALTER M CLEVINGER  
3621 5TH AVE N  
ST PETERSBURG, FL 33713  
813-321-1283  
MS-76, 77

PATRICIA COLEMAN MOORE  
14243 KENTMORE PARK RD  
KENNEDYVILLE, MD 21645  
410-348-5145  
MS-60

JOHN COLLIER  
636 KENSINGTON AVE  
SEVERNA PARK, MD 21146  
410-315-9787  
MS-37, 42

JOSEPH L COOK  
949 CHESAPEAKE DR  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-3714  
MS-80, 81

WILLIAM CORDREY  
P O BOX 651  
HIGH BAR HARBOR, NJ 08006  
609-494-8677  
MS-17, 18

CARVERS CORNER  
36 LEO PLACE  
LODI, NJ 07644  
201-365-2202  
MS-144, 145, 146

BOOKS PLUS-LUKE CUCCIA  
P O BOX 731  
LODI, NJ 07644  
210-777-7110  
MS-155, 156, 157

WILLIAM C. GIBIAN  
93 MARKET ST  
ONANCOCK, VA 23417  
757-787-8341  
MS-200

## Bomboy's Homemade Candy, Inc.

322 Market Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
(410) 939-2924



## Harford National Bank

2960 Revolution Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
(410) 939-0300

# 1997 HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY, WILDLIFE ART, AND SPORTSMAN FESTIVAL EXHIBITOR LIST

## Middle School (MS)

MICHAEL GLEASON  
4 SLAVIN CT  
BALTIMORE, MD 21236  
410-661-4340  
MS-197

ED& JUDY GREEN  
P O BOX 1177  
SOLOMONS, MD 20688  
410-394-3251  
MS-179, 180

ARTHUR F. GREMILLION  
25 FOREST TRAIL  
RIDGE, NY 11961  
516-929-6177  
MS-198, 199

HOWARD HALL  
6515 ROUTE 89  
OVID, NY 14521  
607-869-9902  
MS-142

JERYL HALTER  
OLD SUPAWANA BOX 484  
SALEM, NJ 08079  
609-935-5451  
MS-181

BUD HAMMELL  
526 CRESTVIEW TERRACE  
POINT PLEASANT, NJ 08742  
908-892-1549  
MS-5

TOM HARMAN  
320 PRIESTFORD RD  
CHURCHVILLE, MD 21028  
410-734-6579  
MS-2

CHRIS HAWKINS  
112 SUSQUEHANNA CT  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-2726  
MS-79

BILL HICKSON  
11718 THREE BRIDGE  
BRANCH RD  
CORDOVA, MD 21625  
410-822-0821  
MS-64

ANN HOLLOWAY  
1302 ROBIN AVE  
SALISBURY, MD 21804  
410-742-9396  
MS-105

SAM'S DECOYS/SAM HUFFER  
P O BOX 607  
MANASSAS, VA 20113  
703-368-5092  
MS-96, 97

TOM HUMBERSTONE  
2081 COON HILL RD  
SKANEATELES, NY 13152  
315-685-6819  
MS-182

SOPHIE HUTCHINS  
7715 WARSAW AVE  
GLEN BURNIE, MD 21060  
410-255-8752  
MS-7, 8

WILLIAM HYDE  
306 HAMINTON AVE  
PENNSVILLE, NJ 08070  
609-678-7067  
MS-91

JOHN INGOGLIA  
220 ALLIANCE ST  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-6245  
MS-190

JOHN INTO  
GENERAL DELIVERY  
WITTMAN, MD 21676  
410-745-5954  
MS-129



*FRONT ROW: Charles Joiner, Bill Schaubert, Allan Schaubert, Robert Litzenberg, Bill Collins.  
BACK ROW: Roger Urie, Jim Pierce, Captain Harry Jobs, and Charles Bryan.  
All past Honorary Chairmen.*

## Paidon Products Co., Inc

791 W. Bel Air Avenue  
Aberdeen, MD 21001  
(410) 272-6400



## DeBonis Chevrolet

1517 Pulask Highway  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
(410) 939-2255

# 1997 HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY, WILDLIFE ART, AND SPORTSMAN FESTIVAL EXHIBITOR LIST

## Middle School (MS)

EDWARD E ITTER  
8098 VENTNOR RD  
PASADENA, MD 21122  
410-255-7226  
MS-158

FORREST JENNINGS  
426 OAK SHADE RD  
SHAMONG, NJ 08088  
609-268-8032  
MS-99

CAPT. HARRY JOBES  
77 BAKER ST  
ABERDEEN, MD 21001  
410-272-2055  
MS-3, 4

JOSEPH A. JOBES  
619 BOURBON ST  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-1807  
MS-87, 88

CAPT BOB JOBES  
721 OTSEGO ST  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-1843  
MS-92, 93

CHARLES JOBES  
855 OTSEGO STREET  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-3005  
MS-100A, 100B

FLYWAY DECOYS  
WALT & CINDY JONES  
2586 ROUTE 563  
GREENBANK, NJ 08215  
609-965-6524  
MS-61, 62-63

VIVIAN M KARSNITZ  
1428 JERRY LANE  
MANHEIM, PA 17545  
717-665-4202  
MS-50, 51

CAROL & MORT KRAMER  
3707 GARDENVIEW RD  
BALTIMORE, MD 21208  
410-484-3321  
MS-158A, 158B



*1996 Stamp cancellation in the Middle School library.*

RONALD C LABER & SON  
LABER  
2404 HOOPERS ISLAND RD  
FISHING CREEK, MD 21634  
410-397-3485  
MS-122, 123

BUTCH & MARY CAROL  
LARRIMORE  
P O BOX 102  
BORING, MD 21020  
410-429-2989  
MS-22, 23

LOUIS L LAWSON  
8101 RYCROFT AVE  
NEW CARROLLTON, MD  
20784  
301-474-4297  
MS-49

STEVE LAY  
1026 CHESAPEAKE DR  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-4014  
MS-11, 12

CORINNE MICHELLE  
LITZENBERG  
668 BLUE BALL RD  
ELKTON, MD 21921  
410-392-3825  
MS-143

DEPT. OF NATURAL RE-  
SOURCES-FRANK LOPEZ  
2 SOUTH BOND ST  
BEL AIR, MD 21014  
MS-118

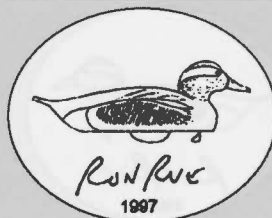
MADEIRA DECOYS-KIRK  
MADEIRA  
112 S 2ND ST  
WOMELSDORF, PA 19567  
610-589-1372  
MS-115

CREATIONS IN STAINED  
GLASS/ANNE & HANK  
MAGIERSKI  
32 SHIP DR  
LITTLE EGG HARBOR, NJ  
08087  
609-296-3505  
MS-178

JOSEPH K. MCCARL  
449 ERIE ST  
SHARON, PA 16146  
412-347-1058  
MS-186

## Post Road Liquors

1123 Revolution Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
(410) 939-0990



## Bank of Memories

319 St. John Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
(410) 939-4343



# 1997 HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY, WILDLIFE ART, AND SPORTSMAN FESTIVAL EXHIBITOR LIST

## Middle School (MS)

GEORGE W. MCDANIEL, SR.  
112 RIVER RD  
ELKTON, MD 21921  
410-398-6330  
MS-130

DIRECTORATE OF SAFETY,  
HEALTH &  
ENVIRONMENT -LISA  
MCDERMOTT  
BUILDING 4603 ATTN: STEAP-  
SH-EE  
APG, MD 21005  
410-278-4476  
MS-124-127

RAY S. MCKENZIE  
937 S FIFTH ST  
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201  
717-264-2583  
MS-113A

NELSON MENGEL  
714 PLATER ST  
ABERDEEN, MD 21001  
410-272-4908  
MS-28, 28A

JOHN MEREDITH  
11975 STILL POND RD  
WORTON, MD 21678  
410-348-2291  
MS-201, 202

CANVASBACKS, LTD. /KEN &  
CHERYL MORETZ DECOYS  
1007 MORRISON BLVD  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-2485  
MS-152, 153, 154

BEAVER DAM DECOYS /DICK  
MORGAN  
P O BOX 40  
CORTLAND, OH 44410  
330-637-4007  
MS-147,148,149

GARY NAREWSKI  
BOX 202  
MINETTO, NY 13115  
315-622-4319  
MS-188, 189, 195

DOCK OF THE BAY/JERRY  
NEAULT  
6433 LOUDON AVE  
BALTIMORE, MD 21227  
410-796-5980  
MS-185

JOHN L OBERENDER II  
BOX 353  
MONKTON, MD 21111  
410-343-1329  
MS-71

PARKER'S DECOYS  
LESTER & RUTH PARKER  
114 PENCROFT DR N  
HOLTWOOD, PA 17532  
717-284-3273  
MS-94 + OUTSIDE

EDWARD& LEE PFOUTZ  
81 N CHARLOTTE ST  
MANHEIM, PA 17545  
717-665-2587  
MS-193

FREDERICK STEINER PIERCE  
P O BOX 224  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-5556  
MS-86

PIERCE DECOYS  
318 N LAPIDUM RD  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-939-2272  
MS-166, 167

WILLIAM L PORTERFIELD  
3650 BULL RD  
YORK, PA 17404  
717-292-9681  
MS-95

MARSHALL L. PURNER  
20 CHURCH POINT RD  
NORTH EAST, MD 21901  
410-287-2117  
MS-33, 34

ROBERT J. RADCLIFFE, SR.  
3733 SURRY RD  
VA BEACH, VA 23455  
804-464-2402  
MS-141

DICK & LINDA ROBINSON  
1319 PLYMOUTH RD  
BEL AIR, MD 21015  
410-838-7545  
MS-58, 59

RONALD RUE  
1002 GREENWAY TERRACE  
CAMBRIDGE, MD 21613  
410-228-2126  
MS-29, 30

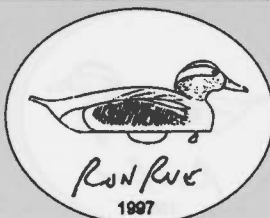
BILL & ALLAN SCHAUBER  
708 TRUSLOW RD  
CHESTERTOWN, MD 21620  
410-778-6991  
MS-150, 151



*Roger Urie and Captain Harry Jobs whittling.*

## Vision Associates

920 Revolution Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
(410) 939-2200



## Bayou Restaurant

927 Pulaski Highway  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
(410) 939-3565

# 1997 HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY, WILDLIFE ART, AND SPORTSMAN FESTIVAL EXHIBITOR LIST

## Middle School (MS)

PAUL & DEBBIE SHERTZ  
922 LAURA LEE CIRCLE  
BEAR, DE 19701  
302-834-8427  
MS-26

DES POTTERY  
DONALD & NANCY SHUSTER  
3708 GREENSPRING RD  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078  
410-734-6028  
MS-128, 128A

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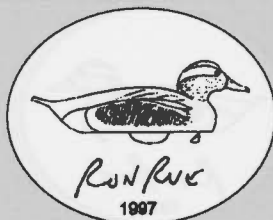
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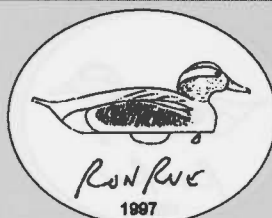
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## Book Review

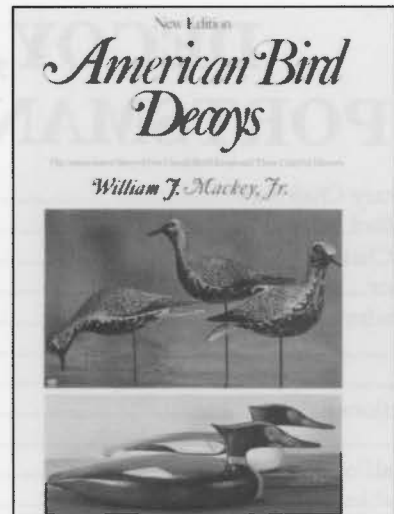
# American Bird Decoys

By William J. Mackey, Jr.  
Reviewed by Bill Smart

Anyone associated with the hobby or business of collecting decoys has at one time or another been made aware of Bill Mackey and his fabulous collection. *American Bird Decoys*, when first published in 1965, shared the fruits of nearly forty years of research and collecting with the novice and seasoned decoy collector. Mackey's love for this great American folk art is readily apparent throughout his work. As a hunter, student, and historian, he combined his first-hand knowledge, photographs and the benefit of his relationships and conversations with some of the most prominent carvers of the 20th century, into one of the first decoy reference books.

Mackey was a pioneer in the decoy collecting field. His timely writing of this book served to fill a void for collectors as this relatively new hobby gained acceptance during the mid-1960s. Having amassed a superb collection of thousands of decoys, he left his professional career to document his knowledge and share his experiences and insights with his fellow collectors. In doing so, he drafted a ready reference which included eighteen chapters of text.

Focusing predominantly on decoys and folk art carvings of the Atlantic Coast, he provided a fine collection of photographs from his personal collection. Many of the decoys he refers to are rare and have a strong sense of history. As an example, in the chapter documenting the Susquehanna Flats and Upper Chesapeake, he provides a picture of a Dick Howlett canvasback. According to Mackey, this bird was made between 1850 and 1860 and was owned by Jim Currier for sixty years. Other chapters refer to decoy history, vanishing birds, shore birds, unusual birds, confidence decoys, and factory decoys. Included too are tips on collecting (some still quite valuable to the new collector today), and a chapter on decoys as folk art by Quintina Colio.



Although some of Mackey's information is dated, this book remains one of the staples for the decoy collector and historian's reference library. This book is out of print, however, I suspect that there are a few to be had from exhibitors at the Havre de Grace Decoy, Wildlife Art and Sportsman Festival this year.

*American Bird Decoys* is 255 pages and was first published in 1965 by E.P. Dutton and Co., Inc., New York. A second edition was published in 1987.

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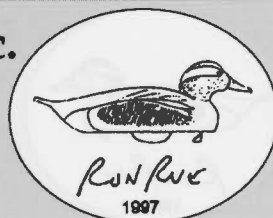
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**TOP:** *The blocks start to go up. Photo by Ken Lay.*

**ABOVE:** *Over the days, the blocks get higher and higher. Photo by Ken Lay.*

**RIGHT:** *Fitting the steel supports. Photo by Ken Lay.*





*Block work near completion. Photo by Ken Lay.*



*Steel supports connect the shaft with the museum. Photo by Ken Lay.*



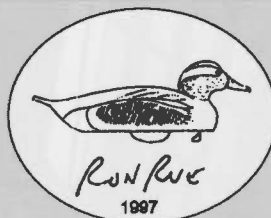
*Smoothing out the cement floor. Photo by Ken Lay.*



*The roof is set in place with a crane. Photo by Ken Lay.*

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*The elevator shaft still has the glass to go in. Photo by Ken Lay.*



*The official ribbon cutting Ken Lay, Hunter Kerlin, and Allen Fair. Photo by M. Murphy.*



*Finished at last! Photo by M. Murphy.*





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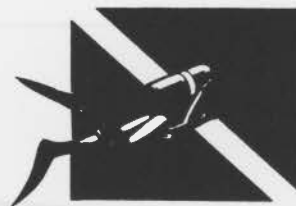
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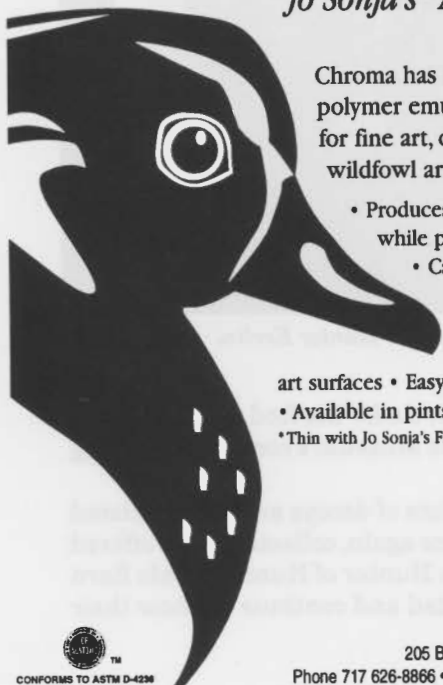
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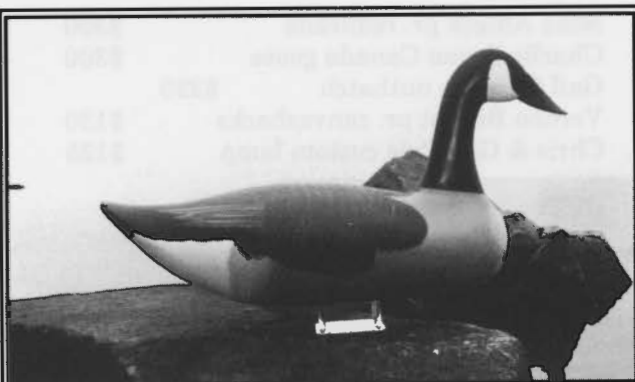
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# AUCTIONNEWS

## Carver's Appreciation Day

The Sixth Annual Carver's Appreciation Day abounded with food, fun, and festivities. The evening was kicked-off with G. Hunter Kerlin performing the ribbon cutting for the new elevator and followed by C. John Sullivan, author of Waterfowling. The Upper Chesapeake's Legacy, delivering an informative and entertaining presentation. Honored at the event were Ronald Rue, 1977 Decoy Festival Honorary Chairman, Barb Wachter, Volunteer Carver of the Year. Also, Laura Denardo received a special plaque for her support throughout the years. As for the food, the delectable appetizers and deserts were prepared by volunteers with the recipes taken from the Museum's cookbook, Sharing Recipes from Carvers, Collectors and Cooks.

The evenings finale was the auction, which raised \$2,203. The twenty-eight lots of decoys and decoy related items were donated by Museum members, talented carvers, and skillful artists. Once again, collectors were offered a variety of quality items to bid on. In keeping with an established tradition, Norm Hunter of Hunter's Sale Barn was the auctioneer. Credit for the evenings success is given to all who participated and continue to show their support for the Museum.



*Elevator ribbon cutting performed by G. Hunter Kerlin. Photo by M. Murphy.*



*Barb Wachter receiving the Volunteer Carver of the Year Award. Photo by M. Murphy.*

### Top 5 Lots of February 22, 1997

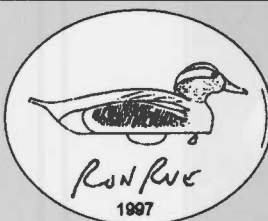
Mike Affleck pr. redheads	\$300
Charlie Bryan Canada goose	\$300
Gail Carriere nuthatch	\$220
Vernon Bryant pr. canvasbacks	\$130
Chris & Gail Pyle custom lamp	\$125



*Nuthatch by Gail Carriere. Photo by M. Murphy.*

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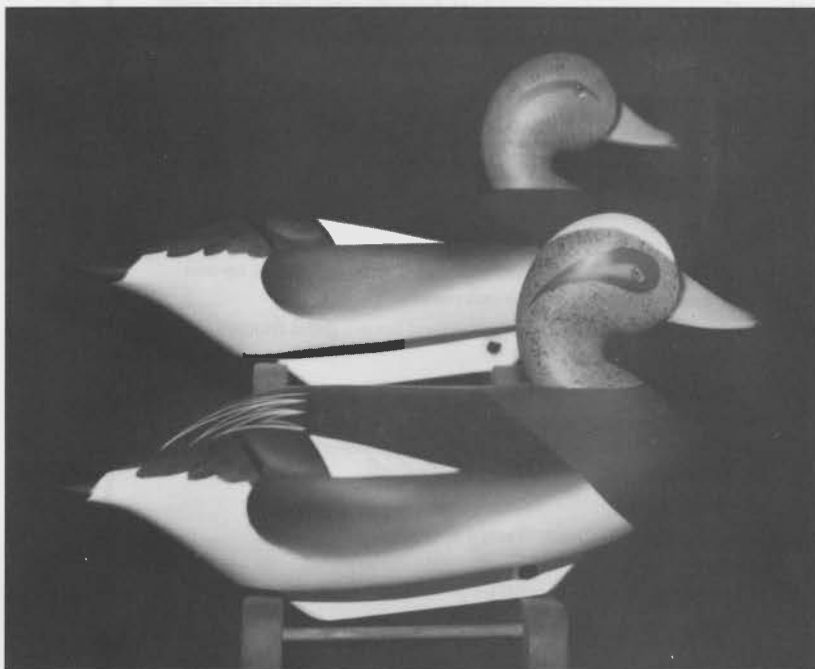
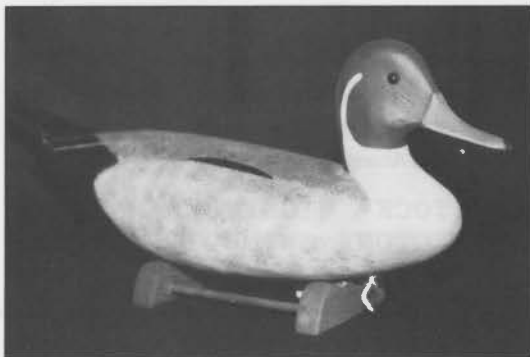
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## Decoy Festival Auction

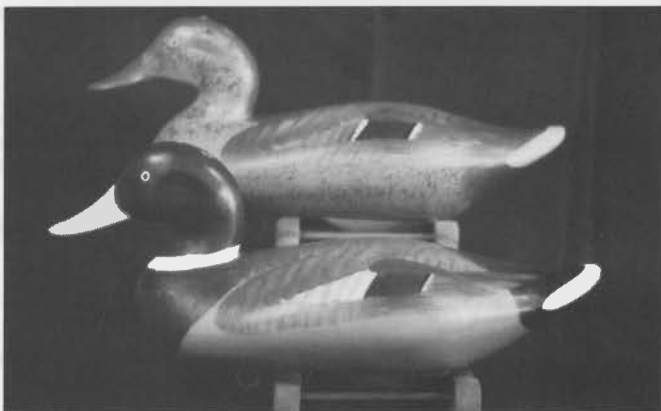
This year's Decoy Festival auction will be held on Saturday, May 3, 1997. It will take place in the Havre de Grace High School Auditorium at 5:30 pm. The preview will begin at 12:00 noon and bidder registration will begin at 4:00 pm. Auction lists are available at the Museum and High School Auditorium.

This years auction has something for every collector, whether novice or seasoned. Highlighted by a collection of decoys carved by this years Honorary Chairman, Ronald Rue, the venue also includes decoys carved by former Honorary Chairmen, R. Madison Mitchell, Paul Gibson, Charlie Bryan, Jim Pierce, Bob Litzenberg, Charlie Joiner, Evans McKinney, Bill Collins, Harry Jobes, and Robert F. McGaw. Add to the list legendary regional carvers, William Heverin and Sam Barnes, and collectors are in for an exciting event. Just a reminder to all prospective bidders that the 10% buyer's premium directly benefits the museum.

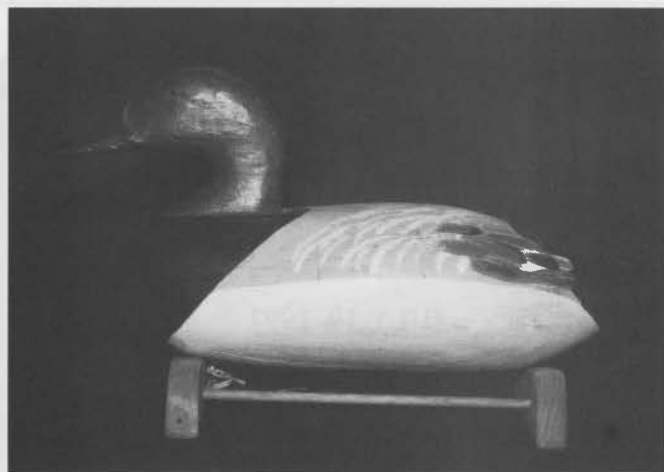


*Pair of widgeons by Charlie Bryan. Photo by M. Murphy.*

*Pintail drake by John Hamilton. Photo by M. Murphy.*



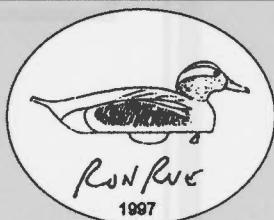
*Pair of mallards by R. Madison Mitchell. Photo by M. Murphy.*



*Canvasback by Paul Gibson. Photo by M. Murphy.*

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# Exhibit Update

Kim Martin

## Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

1997 Honorary Chairman, Ronald Rue will have his collection on display at the Decoy Museum. As the 1997 Honorary Chairman, Ronald Rue is carrying out the tradition of carving two sets of decoys. One collection will be for the Decoy Museum's permanent collection and the other collection will be auctioned off as a complete set Saturday evening at the Festival. All of the auction items will be ready to preview at noon and the auction will begin at 5:30 p.m. Ronald Rue's exhibit will be located on the second floor of the Museum. Take the time to look at the other Honorary Chairmen's collection while at the Decoy Museum. Museum admission will be free, May 3rd and 4th.

## Middle School Gymnasium Stage

During the Decoy, Wildlife Art, & Sportsman Festival, there will be artifact displays on the Middle School Gymnasium Stage. Featured collections will be from William Cordrey and Doug Rhodes. William

Cordrey's collection features exceptional examples of canvasback decoys from the Upper Chesapeake Bay. Decoys from such makers as Holly, McGaw, Mitchell, and Barnard will be on display. Doug Rhodes will display select examples from his bluebill collection. Doug has chosen to collect decoys of one species of duck, rather than from a certain area or by a particular carver. These bluebills are from throughout the United States.



*One of Mr. Rue's shorebirds.*



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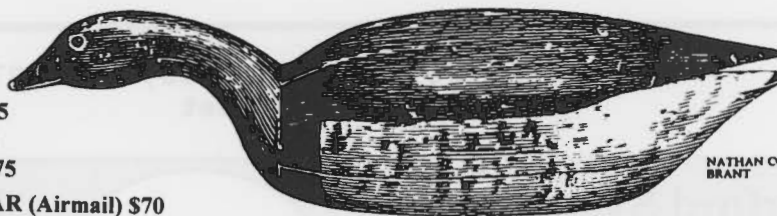
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# Weekend Carving Demonstrations at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

May 3,  
May 4,  
May 10,  
May 17,  
May 24

Decoy Festival  
Decoy Festival  
Noble Mentzer  
Joe Cook  
Ken Clodfelter

June 21,  
June 22,  
June 28,

Wayne Thayer  
Nick Birster  
Butch and Mary Carol  
Larrimore

Please contact Pat Vincenti at 410-734-6238 if you are interested in being a Weekend Carver on any open dates in May, June, or July.

June 1,  
June 7,  
June 8,  
June 14,

Barb Wachter  
Noble Mentzer  
Bryan Bodt  
Joe Cook

July 12,  
July 13,  
July 19,  
July 26,

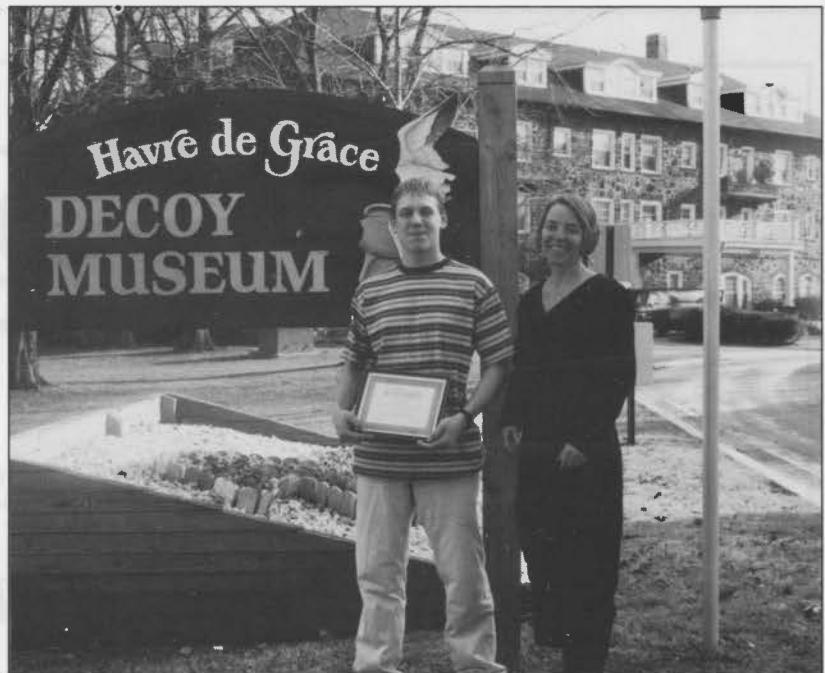
Joe Cook  
Barb Wachter  
Lenny Burcham  
Ken Clodfelter

## Museum News

# 1997 Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival Poster Winner

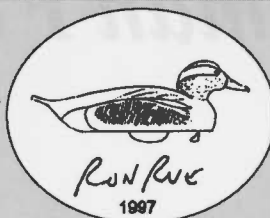
Area schools informed their high school students of a poster contest sponsored by the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. The winning image would be printed into the 1997 Festival Poster. The winner of the 1997 poster contest is: Thomas Norris from Street, Maryland. He received a plaque and a \$100 check. The posters will be on sale Saturday during Signing Session in the Middle School Library.

*Winner Thomas Norris and Poster Contest Chair, Teresa Yost Bennett.*



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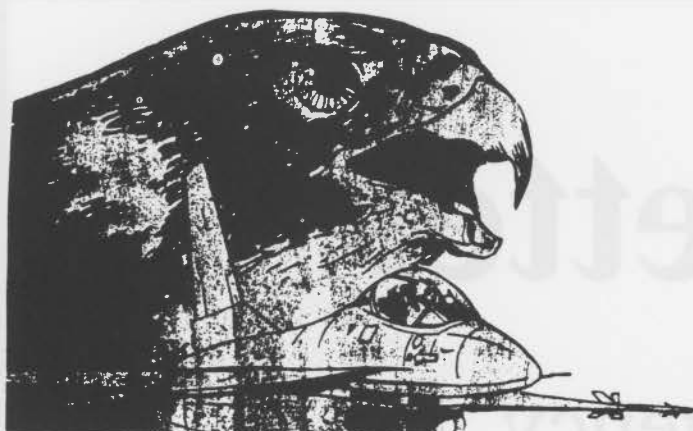
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# CALENDAR

## May

2-4

16th Annual Havre de Grace Decoy, Wildlife Art & 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. Sponsors: J.M. Huber, Cello, Hostetter, W.X.C.Y., Pepsi, Cleaning Solutions Group-Sherwin Williams, Sentman Distributors, Mitchell-Smith Funeral Home, Foredom, Hechler & Kock. Contact: Decoy Museum, P.O. Box 878, Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078 or call (410) 939-3739.

24

4th Annual Bob Litzenburg Hunting Decoy Show and Art Festival. Museum Open House, artists, decoys, refreshments, crafters, paraphernalia, gunning rigs. Located on the Waterfront in Town Park, North East, Maryland. Call (410) 287-2675.

26

14th Annual Ontario Decoy & Sporting Collectible Show. At the Holiday Inn in Burlington, Ontario. Contact Paul Brisco, 49 Bromleigh Ave, London, Ontario N6G 1V1, Canada, or call (516) 641-4790.

## July

18-20

29th Annual Clayton Decoy and Wildlife Art Show. Decoys, artists, auction, and raffle. At the Recreation Park Arena, Clayton, New York. Call the Clayton Chamber of Commerce (315) 686-3771.

19

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Yard Sale. Huge, Huge Yard

Sale. Jewelry, dishware, equipment, books, furniture, appliances — you name it, we have it! Held on the grounds of the Decoy Museum and Bayou Condominiums, Havre de Grace, Maryland. Still accepting donations. Call (410) 939-3739.

19-20

Annual Summer Decoy Auction by Ted Harmon & Decoys Unlimited. Held at the Old Byfield Gallery, Byfield, Massachusetts. Contact Ted Harmon, 2320 Main St., West Barnstable, MA 02668, (508) 362-2766.

25-26

Annual Summer Decoy Auction by Guyette & Schmidt. Held at the Cliff House, Ogunquit, Maine. Contact Guyette & Schmidt, P.O. Box 522, W. Farmington, ME 04992, (207) 778-6256.

## September

13-14

10th Annual Duck Fair. Free Admission, held on the grounds of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and Bayou Condominium. Carvers, artists, Duck and Goose Calling Contest, auction, raffles, demonstrations. Call (410) 939-3739.

## October

25

Chestertown Wildlife Exhibition & Sale. Throughout Historic downtown Chestertown on Maryland's Eastern Shore. 9am-5pm. Artists, carvers, painters, music, duck & goose calling, slide programs, carving competitions, soup tasting, decoy identification. Call (410) 778-0416.

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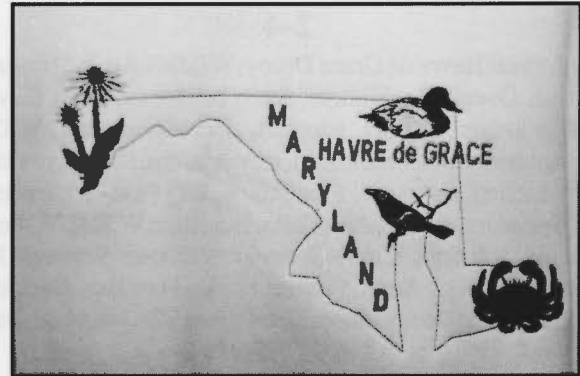
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Detail



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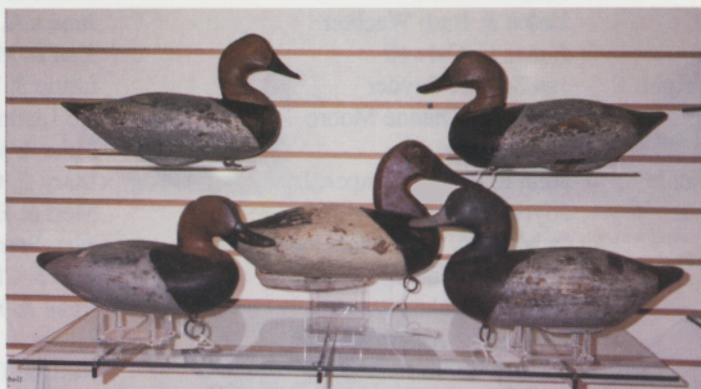


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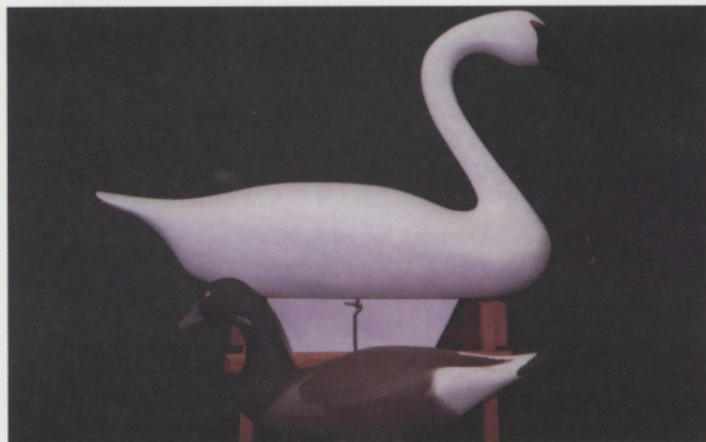
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For our members we offer free classified ads to buy, sell, and trade decoys or related objects. Please keep it under 15 words. For non-members, it is \$5.00 for 15 words. Mail your classified ads to: Decoy Museum, P.O. Box 878, Havre de Grace, MD 21078.

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

Wanted: Charles "Buck" Crawford miniatures. Contact Lou Nolan, 1123 Penhurst Lane, Penn Valley, PA or call (610) 664-5938.

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Wanted: Items for the Yard Sale at the Decoy Museum. Call (410) 939-3739.

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