

The Canvasback

Fall 1999
Vol. 8, No. 3

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

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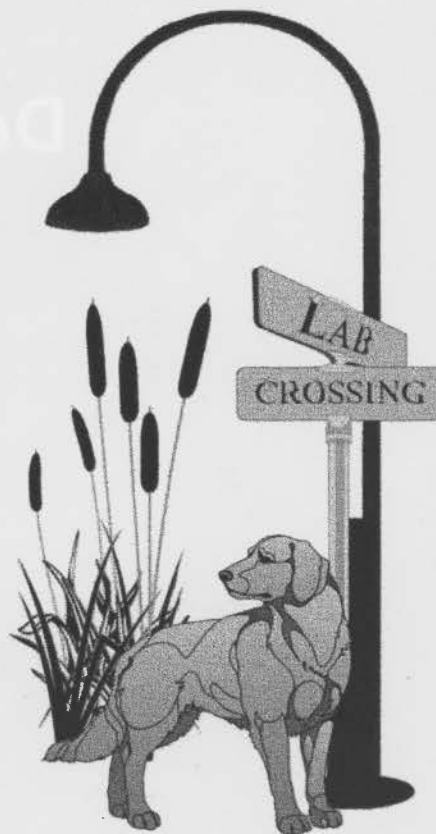
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Havre de Grace Decoy Museum



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.

CONTENTS

- 8 **The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum at the Millennium**
 by Jennifer Jones
- 16 **12th Annual Duck Fair Review**
 by Kay Morrison
- 21 **Sporting Clays Shoot**
 by Kay Morrison with David Walker
- 23 **Museum News**
- 28 **Just For Ducklings**
 by Barbara Osborn Kreamer, Esq.
- 29 **A Gesture of Recognition for "Speed" Joiner**

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 From the President
6 Book Review
26 Calendar of Events
30 Weekend Carvers
30 Classified Ads

FROM THE EDITOR

As you are about to see, much of this issue of *The Canvasback* focuses on the spirit of volunteerism and co-operation that has made the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum successful for the past two decades. With a small staff, the museum depends upon its volunteers to provide a broad array of services, from staffing the front desk and gift shop to setting up special events and making sure that each issue of *The Canvasback* reaches members' mailboxes.

This summer, volunteer efforts were especially important. As some of you may know, the museum has recently undergone an extended period of transition. For much of the summer, there was no director to oversee daily operations, and other staff members were very new to the museum. It is a credit to the museum's Board of Directors that few members and visitors were aware of this changeover.

In the absence of a full staff, many board members significantly increased their involvement in the museum's day-to-day operations. The executive committee was especially helpful. Vice President Kenny Lay continued his daily visits to the museum, addressing whatever needs he happened to encounter. Treasurer Jim Pierce maintained his vigilant watch over the institution's finances, while he supervised the new finance assistant. And Dave Walker responded amiably to more frequent pleas for building maintenance help.

The museum owes its greatest
(Continued on Page 30)

ON THE COVER

Wood duck decoys wait on a tributary of Otter Point Creek. Photo courtesy of Fred Gillotte, Jr.

**Havre de Grace Decoy Museum
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1999**

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*From
the
President*



Dear Museum Member,

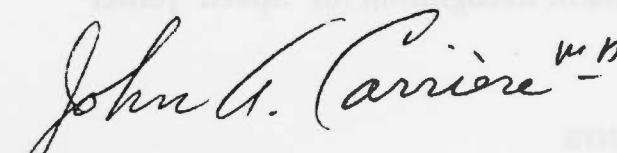
This issue of *The Canvasback* will be the last in this millennium. My first thoughts were to write about the accomplishments of our museum in the twentieth century and our goals for the twenty-first. What has been achieved is obvious. All one has to do is read this magazine and/or visit the museum to see what we are now. What is not so obvious is how we have progressed this far. The secret of our success has been the people who helped us in any number of ways. The founding members of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum gave unselfishly of their time, labor, and financial support. Material, labor, and financial support have been donated by individuals and businesses of the community. Local and regional carvers have donated their time and skills. Museum members have always helped support us with their dues, donations, and attendance at our fundraising events. Volunteers, by staffing our events, make it possible for them to be successful. Individuals and businesses continually support our functions financially.

The day to day functions of the museum are carried out by a paid professional staff with the help of several loyal volunteers. The staff that manages our museum is responsible for establishing and maintaining the degree of quality that the museum now enjoys. Many local and regional professionals donate their skills on a regular basis to insure the smooth operation of our organization.

Looking at a list of the Honorary Chairmen of our annual Decoy Festivals gives one an idea of some of the great carvers who have supported us over the years by allowing the museum to use their names and their art in this, our major fundraiser. Without these men, the museum would have "never gotten off the ground." However, these men alone could not have made this museum a success without the help of all of the other volunteers associated with our organization in every capacity imaginable.

No individuals have been mentioned by name because surely some would have been missed. Hopefully, I can be forgiven for singling out R. Madison Mitchell as the individual without whom this museum could not have opened and grown to be what it is today.

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's future rests in the hands of its board, staff, and volunteers. The museum urges all of its members to take part in the future successes of this organization. Contact our new director, Jennifer Jones, to offer your services or suggestions.


John A. Carriere, M.D.
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 that exists to document and interpret waterfowl as this art form applies to the social and economic life of the upper Chesapeake Bay region.

Call For Volunteers!!!

Do you have a passion for decoys, waterfowl hunting, and the culture of the Upper Chesapeake Bay? Would you like to help others appreciate the beauty and significance of the folk art of decoy carving? Then volunteer service at the Decoy Museum is your opportunity to share your knowledge and enthusiasm with thousands of interested visitors!

The Decoy Museum is seeking volunteers to fill a variety of roles. Volunteers are needed to:

- lead tours
- present programs for school children
- greet visitors at the information desk
- assist customers in the gift shop
- perform curatorial duties
- perform general office duties
- provide carving demonstrations
- help at special events

Training will be provided, and schedules are flexible. Also, the museum offers volunteers a 25% discount in the museum shop and recognition at the annual Volunteers and Carvers Appreciation Day.

As a small institution, the Decoy Museum relies upon its volunteers to make its daily programs possible. If you would like to help, please contact Heidi Schnakenberg at (410) 939-3739 to discuss your interests and availability.



Bob Jobes volunteering for a school tour, June 1997.

Book Review

Mason Decoys: A Complete Pictorial Guide

By Russ J. Goldberger and Alan G. Haid

Reviewed by Bill Smart

The interest in decoys is quite often varied from collector to collector. Most often, their interest will range from historical significance, art appeal, waterfowl sportsman ties and/or merchandising. Additionally, the individual criteria for collecting further defines the appeal. There is one school of collectors who define decoy folk art as limited to only those decoys which are 100 percent hand made, while another embraces the addition of factory-made decoys. Whatever your personal criteria, it is impossible to discount the value, beauty or significant contributions of the Mason decoy. Unquestionably, the Mason decoy is one of the most recognized decoys in America. Often they appear in advertisements, home decorating magazines, and tucked away quietly in the background of a TV show or movie.

William J. Mason (an 1850s Irish immigrant) could not have imagined the impact he would have on this country's waterfowl hunters while his decoy factory was in operation from 1896 to 1924. As his business grew, he was forced to relocate from his backyard building to a larger production facility to meet his customers' demands. Originally, his company produced all hand-chopped birds until his relocation in 1903, when his company began using a lathe to manufacture heads and bodies. This was about the time when the Mason factory apprentice painters were earning a dollar a day for a 9½ hour day, six day a week job. Moreover, the affiliation with the Sears and Roebuck catalog company would only further improve his business.

Herbert Mason took over the business when his father died in 1905. The business prospered for several years until it finally closed in 1924 as a result of competition and Herbert's interest in supplying paint to the growing auto-

mobile industry.

The authors, both seasoned collectors and students of Mason decoys, share their historical research and superb photographs with the reader. As the title suggests, and like many decoy books, this book consists predominantly of pictures of decoys. However, in this book all of the pictures are top-quality color photographs that add to the enjoyment of the reader and researcher. The reader is also provided with several informative chapters dedicated to the decoys of individual waterfowl species in addition to historical data. The authors' thoughts regarding comparison to other factory decoys, value, and restoration are also informative. *Mason Decoys: A Complete Pictorial Guide* was published in 1993 by Decoy Magazine, Burtonsville, Maryland and consists of 145 pages.

As you start thinking about the rapidly approaching Christmas season, you may want to include this book on your shopping list. The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum offers *Mason Decoys: A Complete Pictorial Guide* for \$49.95.

Wildlife Expo

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HONORING THE MASTERS #2

The Holly Family

In recognition of their many contributions to the Havre de Grace style of decoy carving, John "Daddy" Holly and his three sons, John, Jim, and Bill, have been selected as the Honorary Chairmen for the 19th Annual Decoy, Wildlife Art, & Sportsman Festival, to be held on May 5, 6, & 7, 2000.

To stimulate interest and appreciation for Holly decoys, the Decoy Museum challenges carvers to imitate the Holly style and submit their work for a carving competition to be judged prior to the Festival.

RULES

- Contest open to all carvers.
- Carvers may imitate the work of any member of the Holly family - "Daddy," John, Jim, or Bill.
- Carvers must choose a species produced by the Holly family.
- All decoys must be completely handmade and hand-painted. No air brushing.
- All entries will be donated to the museum and auctioned for the museum's benefit on May 6, 2000.
- Deadline for submission of entries will be March 15, 2000.

Prizes

First Prize \$300

Second Prize \$200

Third Prize \$100

Carvers interested in participating in the contest should contact Special Events Coordinator Kay Morrison at the Decoy Museum (410-939-3739) or Competition Chairman Walter Smith (410-665-5877).

A Retrospective Glance

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum at the Millennium

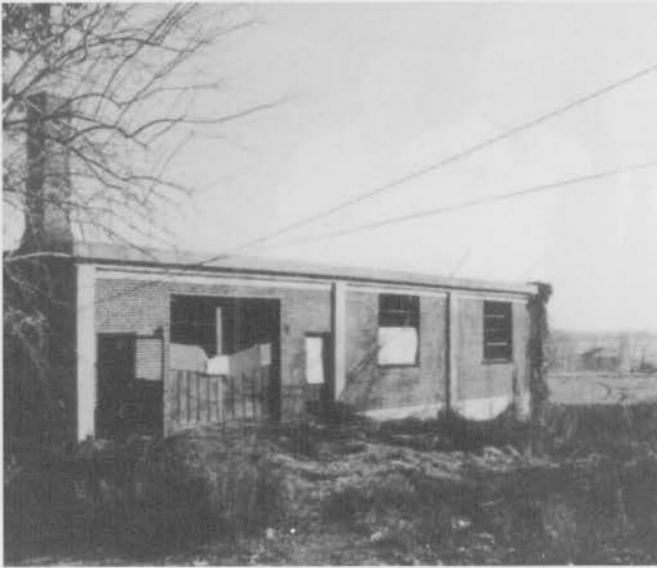
Standing in the twilight of a fading millennium, one feels compelled to contemplate the past. The urge is only natural. As New Year's Day 2000 ticks nearer, individuals around the world are pausing to recall the events of yesterday and retrace the path to the present, inspired partly by nostalgia and partly by an instinctive quest for self-understanding. People are realizing that, just as our high school history teachers insisted, it is impossible to understand today and tomorrow without first understanding the past.

It is no different for institutions. In fact, it is perhaps even more critical that organizations, with their changing agendas and rotating personnel, take stock of their histories periodically. For the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, such a retrospective glance is especially important. In the mere thirteen years since its grand opening, the museum has evolved rapidly from an elementary artistic display to a multifaceted educational institution. And the future promises more dramatic improvements. It is perhaps wise, then, to take the opportunity that the new millennium presents to reflect on our origins and all of the efforts that have brought us to this moment.

By
Jennifer Jones

The Decoy Museum first opened its doors to the public on November 2, 1986, but to fully understand the museum, one must look back much farther than that. The history of the museum actually begins with the earliest days of duck hunting on the Susquehanna Flats. The Upper Chesapeake Bay has been noted for its bounty of waterfowl since the very first explorations of the region in the early 1600s by Captain John Smith, whose men claimed to have killed 148 ducks with three shots. By the late eighteenth century, the Susquehanna Flats attracted sportsmen from all over the world. Men of such influence as J. P. Morgan and Grover Cleveland visited the Flats regularly to spend a weekend in pursuit of canvasbacks. But, despite the bit of glory these famous sportsmen brought to Havre de Grace, they are not the real inspiration for the Decoy Museum. The museum belongs to the generations of men who spent their entire lives on the Flats, bagging birds for sale to fancy Philadelphia restaurants and carving the decoys that made such a livelihood possible.

It was to honor the carvers, their art, and the waterfowling culture of the Upper Bay, in general, that Mitch Shank, Donald Asher, and Allen Fair proposed to found a decoy museum on the banks of the Susquehanna River in February, 1981. Jim Pierce, a well-known Havre



The power plant, soon to be the Decoy Museum, before remodeling in January, 1982.

de Grace carver who had participated in the organization of the Upper Bay Museum and its annual decoy shows, readily agreed to contribute his expertise to the endeavor. At a meeting in December, a group of interested citizens, including John Wolbert, Elsie Stackhouse, Laura Denardo, Duane Henry, Steiner Pierce, Jane Pierce, Leona Loeffler, and Ken Lay, joined the original four gentlemen in establishing the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum as an institution "seeking to create a permanent, educational display of decoys as this art form impacts upon the environment of the Chesapeake Bay Region." The focus, of course, was

to be on the decoys and carvers of Havre de Grace, the self-proclaimed "Decoy Capital of the World."

In 1981, that dream was a long way from realization. The founders had no museum experience, no collection, no facility, and no money. What they did possess was motivation and a network of truly dedicated volunteers. With these tools, the group met each challenge they faced. In late 1981, the mayor and city council of Havre de Grace agreed to lease the old power plant of the Bayou Hotel. Located on the banks of the Susquehanna Flats, the small one-story building used to house the coal furnaces, swimming pool, and tennis courts of one of the finest hunting establishments on the Bay. In the early 1980s, however, the building featured a collapsing roof, gaping holes for windows, and a blanket of vines so thick that many people were not even aware of the building's existence. Still, the organizers leased the building at a rate of one dollar a year for five years and renegotiated the lease for a term of forty-nine years in 1983. They believed that the hovel could be converted into a respectable museum with hard work and a little luck. An army of volunteers was available to provide the services required for renovation. The problem was funding.

The priority was to develop a plan for raising the hundred thousands of dollars that would be required for the conversion of the building. Even before the idea of the museum was conceived, the founders had been planning to stage a decoy festival, and they decided to make that event the museum's first major fundraiser. With \$1,500 in support from the local Chamber of Commerce, the festival

Governor Harry Hughes approves the 1985 grant as the Decoy Museum's supporters look on.





Opening day of the first Decoy Festival, May 15, 1982. Doing the ribbon cutting honors is R. Madison Mitchell.

was held in May, 1982, with R. Madison Mitchell, one of the patriarchs of the Havre de Grace style of decoy carving, as the Honorary Chairman. The event, which featured a decoy auction, generated profits and positive press coverage that signaled the beginning of widespread, active community support for the museum. Thus began the museum's ongoing tradition of spring Decoy, Wildlife Art, and Sportsman Festivals.

But the money from these events alone could not cover the expenses of renovations and exhibit construction. In 1985, the founders turned to the State of Maryland for help. Under the leadership of Madison Mitchell, who testified several times before the Maryland General Assembly, and with the support of several political figures — most notably Mayor Charlie Montgomery, City Councilman Frank Hutchins, State Senator Cathy Riley, and Delegates Bill Cox and Eileen Rehrmann — the museum was awarded a grant of \$200,000 on April 8, 1985. In the meantime, work on the facility continued. The city installed new sewer and water lines. Members of the local

Jaycees devoted numerous hours to clearing the debris from the building, while the Susquehanna Hose Company volunteered to hose down wasp nests and layers of coal dust that had accumulated on the walls from the hotel's use of the furnace. Local experts in the building trades donated their time and equipment to remove "miles" of iron pipes from the building, lay a drain from the museum to the river, build a retaining wall, pour concrete floors, apply stucco to the exterior, block up windows, install studded walls and dry wall, wire electrical systems, and much more. Jim Pierce consented to use the knowledge he had gathered through his experiences with the Upper Bay Museum to design the museum and oversee construction. Under his supervision, dozens of individuals and businesses contributed goods and services to the renovation project, fostering a spirit of volunteer cooperation that persists even today.

Finally, after five years of hard work and more than \$300,000 in expenditures, the facility could be called a museum. With beaming faces, the institution's organizers, volunteers, and well-wishers watched R. Madison Mitchell cut the ribbon and welcome the first visitors to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum on the afternoon of Sunday, November 2, 1986. Of course, at that time, the museum was only a fraction of what it is today. It consisted of a single gallery of decoys, only a few of which were owned by the museum. Furthermore, the exhibit lacked a strong theme to unify and explain the objects. But by selecting certain decoys to present, the managers had begun to define the scope and mission of the new museum.

The early exhibit also demonstrated the founders' desire to highlight the connection between the works of art — the decoys — and the human beings who created them. The centerpiece of the gallery was a diorama featuring some of Havre de Grace's most influential carvers. Through



Progress on the museum building in November of 1986.



Laura Denardo and Kenny Lay in the Decoy Museum on opening day, November 2, 1986.

the recorded narration of R. Madison Mitchell and astonishingly life-like human figures, visitors could step back in time to 1942 to meet Mr. Mitchell, Bob McGaw, Paul Gibson, and Lou Klair as they socialized in McGaw's workshop. Even a decade later this exhibit continues to fascinate, and the museum has continued its emphasis on the relationship between the artists and their art by casting models of many other carvers.

All in all, it was a sound beginning for the Decoy Museum, one of which the founders could be proud. But there was still much to be done before the organizers' dreams could be fully realized. Again, money was short, but the State of Maryland felt that the museum had earned an additional award of assistance. In March, 1987, the State granted the institution \$150,000 to construct the second floor, which was completed in 1991 and rented for social functions. Another significant change came that year when Mitch Shank, one of the conceivers of the museum and Madison Mitchell's grandson, was hired as the museum's first full-time director.

Under Mitch Shank's direction, the museum began to increase the opportunities it presented for visitors to appreciate decoys. Sadly, Mr. Mitchell passed away in 1993, but in 1989 the museum had helped ensure that he would not be forgotten when it purchased his original workshop and tools and relocated them to museum property. At the same time, the museum committee was planning "Gunning the Flats," an exploration of the history and culture of duck hunting at the mouth of the Susquehanna. Then, in 1991, a new gift shop opened in a recently completed addition to the original building. Now decoy enthusiasts could take home a souvenir or a piece of genuine folk art and help support the museum's growth

Fall Canvasback 1999



A figure of R. Madison Mitchell in the main gallery's diorama.

with their purchase.

The arrival of the 1990s brought major changes as the fledgling museum began the difficult process of professionalization. In 1989, an elected Board of Directors was formally installed, and the museum officially established itself as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. In 1990, the museum began to operate for the public seven days a week, making it the only museum in northeastern Maryland to do so. And in 1991, the museum's educational offerings expanded again when the second floor was converted to gallery space. The new exhibit, entitled "Honoring the Masters," consisted of display cases featuring the work of carvers who had served as honorary chairmen at Decoy Festivals and Duck Fairs. Included were such masters as the Ward Brothers, Bob Litzenberg, Evans McKinney, and Charlie Bryan.

The museum also branched out into literary endeavors in that year. In addition to exhibit space, the newly finished second floor housed a research library. Although the library's collection was rather meager in 1991, it grew dramatically in June 1998, when Melvin L. Conrad bequeathed over 200,000 volumes to the museum. Now named in Conrad's honor, the library is one of the nation's finest sources of information on decoy carving and col-

Construction underway on the second floor.





This photo taken in 1990 shows the completed second floor of the Decoy Museum.

lecting, duck hunting, and the Chesapeake region. The museum also published a quarterly newsletter for the first time in 1991. Initially a simple, typed six-page flyer, this newsletter has evolved into *The Canvasback*.

Major progress toward professionalization occurred in 1993, when the board hired its first trained director and curator. Educated and experienced in museum standards, these individuals set out to systemize operations. Mary Jo Murphy, the new director, wrote policies regarding collections care, emergency procedures, personnel management, and ethics and revised the institutional by-laws and mission statement. Meanwhile, the curator worked to increase the number of objects actually owned by the museum and to inventory, catalogue, and record the entire collection.

The ribbon cutting ceremony at the opening of the "Gunning the Flats" exhibit. Shown left to right are: Ken Lay, Allen Fair, Eileen Rehrmann, and Jim Pierce.



Thanks to the efforts of this new team of professionals, "Gunning the Flats," one of the museum's three permanent exhibits, opened in September 1995 amid much celebration. The exhibit features a wooden promenade that guides visitors past a series of displays that explore types of guns and boats used throughout history for hunting on the Flats, the nature of market hunting, and the ecology of the bay. Originally, water filled the central trough of the exhibit. Although a creative twist to the gallery, the water created high humidity levels that threatened the objects on display, and the water had to be drained. Despite the change, the exhibit remains very popular and effective.

Construction projects did not cease as the museum grew more sophisticated. In 1996, after an intensive fundraising campaign, an elevator was installed to accommodate patrons who have difficulty climbing the stairs. An even more involved project involved the stabilization of the addition to the building. The gift shop and the library above it were constructed on marshy ground that had not been sufficiently filled. As a consequence, the new building suffered considerable settling. In January, 1998, the museum was forced to close for two weeks while experts stabilized the foundation. Fortunately, this effort seems to have solved the problem, and there is no longer the fear that the founders' hard work will slide into the Susquehanna!

Today, the product of the dedication, efforts, and insights of all those involved with the Decoy Museum is

The head whittling contest at the 1998 Decoy Festival.



appreciated by the 21,000 visitors who enjoy the institution each year. The museum's success is readily apparent. For the past three years, government agencies at the state, county, and city levels have provided significant grants to the museum, a measure of the museum's improving reputation and status. Membership has increased to an all-time high of over 1400 people, and nearly 2000 schoolchildren visit the museum annually. Once open only two days a week, the Decoy Museum is now open from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. all but four days a year, and special events offerings have multiplied from a single yearly festival to a series of eight annual events.

Many of the original organizers of the museum continue to participate in the daily operations even now, fourteen years after Jim Pierce, Mitch Shank, Allen Fair,

and Donald Asher proposed to found a "permanent, educational display of decoys." One wonders whether, standing with no funds or collections before a dilapidated old power plant, they ever dreamed that their "display" would grow into such a well-respected institution. Despite the remarkable progress that the museum has made, the present staff and board members remain committed to further growth.

As the year 2000 approaches, plans are in place for the expansion of the museum's collections, exhibits, programs, and facility. With careful attention to the Decoy Museum's history and mission, visitors and members can expect that the museum will continue to delight and educate well into the next century.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1989-1999

Jim Pierce	John Wolbert	Melinda Craig	Norman Smith	Terran Miller
Mitch Shank	Bill Collins	David Craig	Warner Taylor	Walter Smith
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Kenneth Lay	Jane Pierce	Donna Belinko	Judy Cline	David Walker
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Jim McMillen	Arthur Lay	Barbara Gilden	Michael Affleck	Gary Reich
Elsie Stackhouse	Bob Miller	Ralph Broth	Fred Gillotte, Jr.	

Special thanks to these individuals for dedicating so much time and energy to the museum.

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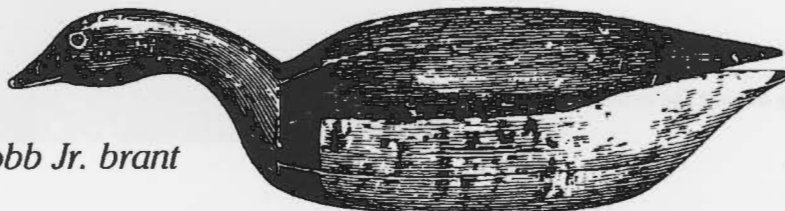
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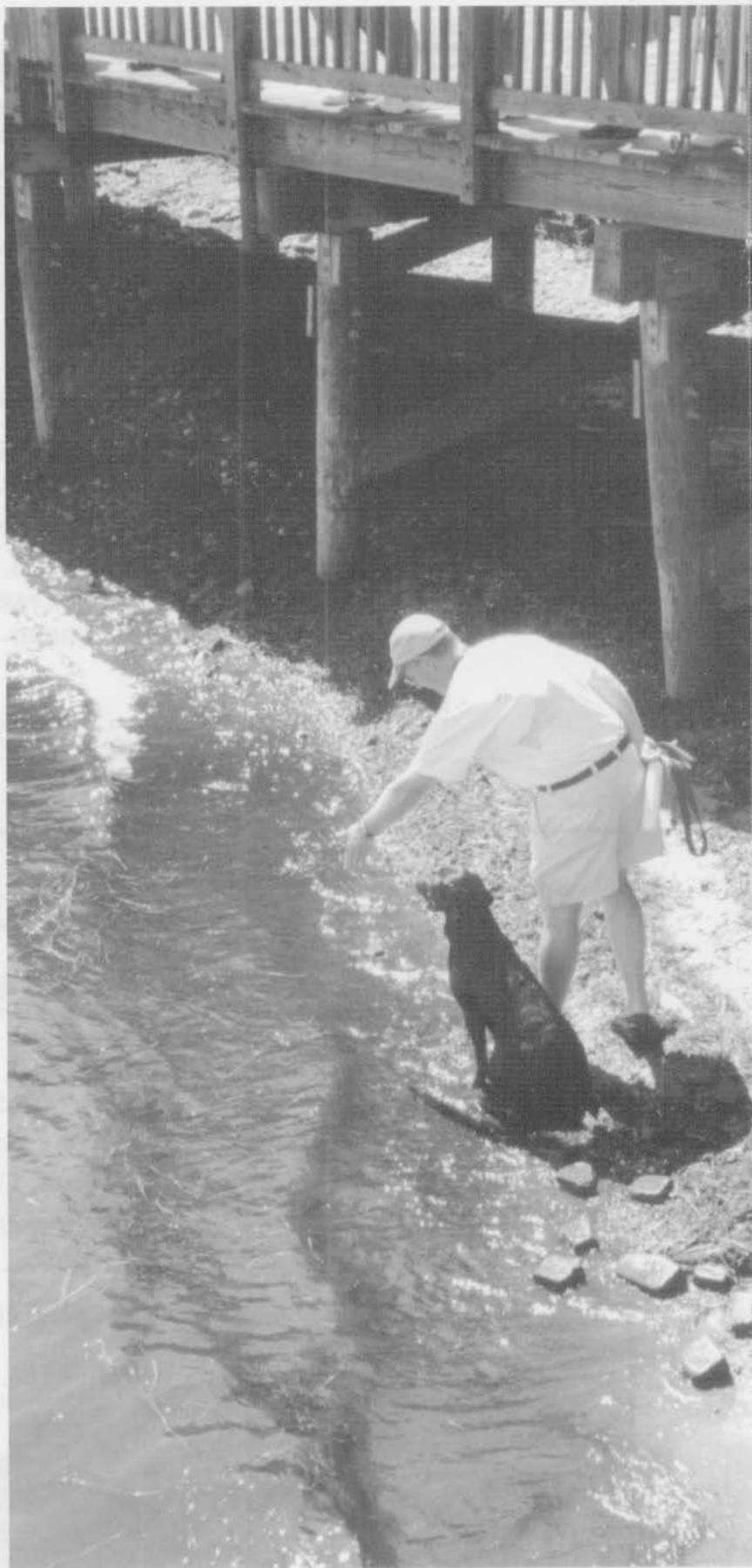
Nathan Cobb Jr. brant



12th Annual Duck Fair Review

By
Kay Morrison

Tim Carrion instructs his dog during the retriever demonstrations.





LEFT: Allen Fair and Norm Smith present a plaque of appreciation to Honorary Chairman Joe Cook.

BELOW: Visitors make their bids at the silent auction booth.



It was still dark when Pat Vincenti began to allow exhibitors to set up their displays for the 12th Annual Duck Fair. The rule was "first come, first served," so many exhibitors were already waiting to find their favorite spots on the grounds of the Bayou Condominiums. After staking their claim, most headed toward the museum, where Duck Fair Chairman Norm Smith had set out coffee and doughnuts for the early arrivals.

Soon, volunteer bakers began to arrive with their donations for the Bake Sale, which ran for both days of the Fair. Some of the baked goods were still warm from the oven, drawing exhibitors and early guests toward the



Volunteer Dick Gottwald at his post behind the raffle table. He shared raffle duties with Evelyn Scheulen and Bill and Ginny Rothwell.

delightful aromas. Sherry Ramey, Elly Coale, Mert Street, and Gail Carriere spent the day helping visitors choose just the right cake to take home or cookies to nibble as they walked through the Fair.

As the sun began to warm, the morning promised some of the best weather we enjoyed all summer. Everyone commented on the glorious day. The view across the water was spectacularly clear, and a gentle breeze rustled the leaves overhead. It was a perfect day to be outside.

Suddenly, a thundering boom rolled from the direction of the river as Bernie Bodt fired his battery gun. Those guests who had read their schedule of events knew what was happening, but even those who had gathered on the promenade were startled by the sound. By the second demonstration, many people had gathered to watch Bernie's boat slide through the water, seemingly unmanned, until it glided into a rig of decoys. Then Bernie fired again, eliciting shrieks of delight from many of the children. After the firing, Bernie explained how important various grasses are to the wildlife of the Susquehanna Flats and to the quality of the water itself. As people asked a host of questions, Bernie graciously answered each one.

A short while later, Allen Fair, the emcee for the Fair, introduced Joe Cook as the event's Honorary Chairman, and Norm Smith presented Joe with a plaque. The museum bestows the title of Honorary Chair each year to a carver who has provided exceptional support to the Decoy Museum. Joe Cook certainly deserved this award. He is one of a group of volunteer carvers who provide



demonstrations to museum visitors each weekend. On the weekend of the Fair, John Clark and Bill Streaker delighted audiences with their skills in the Mitchell Shop.

Silent auctions are always fun, and this year local businesses and exhibitors donated some truly wonderful items to the auction. Madelyn Shank and her assistants, Kevin Racine, Dolores Bungori, Terran Miller, and Steve Gumbel, staffed the silent auction booth, answering questions and helping visitors with their bids. The only thing more fun than a silent auction, of course, is a live auction, and the Fair's live auction was the highlight of Saturday afternoon. For several months, collectors had brought decoys to the museum to be consigned for the auction. In all, there were seventy-four lots for auction. Auctioneer Jay Edwards skillfully directed the bidding as Ed Watts and Bill Pyle displayed the birds. Earlier in the day, past

Honorary Chairmen Bill Schaubert, Jim Pierce, Noble Mentzer, Ned Mayne, and Charlie Bryan had joined Joe Cook in a head whittling contest, in which Charlie Bryan was named the winner. The heads were then auctioned off as an added benefit to the museum.

Sunday delivered the same glorious weather enjoyed on Saturday, and visitors could still enjoy the silent auction, bake sale, and exhibitors' booths. But the second day of the Fair featured added treats. Throughout the afternoon, children were lined up at tables under the big tent, where Noble Mentzer helped them try their hands at painting miniature decoys. Under Noble's tutelage, twenty-seven youngsters embarked on what we hope may become a lifelong hobby or vocation. Bill Pyle, Fred Gillotte, and Bob Elliott also helped the children create their masterpieces.



TOP: Jay Edwards directs the bidding on a bird during Saturday's live auction.

LEFT: Charlie Bryan, winner of the past Honorary Chairmen head whittling contest, proudly displays his decoy head.

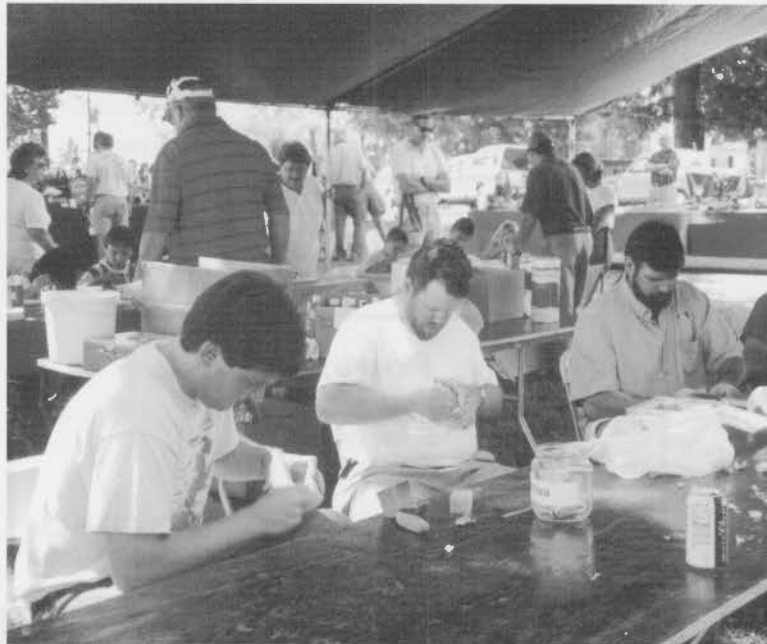
The Open Head Whittling Contest, which was open to all carvers, was also held on Sunday. Joey Jobes won first prize in the contest, while his brother Bobby took second. Charlie Pierce was awarded third prize. Each of the winners generously donated their cash prizes to the museum.

Finally came the activity many visitors and exhibitors had been waiting for — the retriever demonstrations! Tim Carrion and Gene Byrd led their dogs through the retrieval process three times on Sunday afternoon. Their ten-week-old puppy delighted the crowd as it watched from the promenade. It was an opportunity to see what few people other than hunters ever see. The dogs never seem to tire, and their desire to please their trainers — and their audience — is wonderful!

By 4:00 on Sunday afternoon, the 12th Annual Duck Fair was over. Evaluations collected from exhibitors commented on the event's relaxed atmosphere and friendly people. Exhibitors truly appreciated the opportunity to display their work in an outdoor setting, not to mention the free doughnuts! And visitors seemed to leave the Fair equally satisfied — and laden with fabulous purchases. The staff, board members, and volunteers of the Decoy Museum are already looking forward to seeing everyone again at next year's Duck Fair, scheduled for September 9&10, 2000. Mark your calendars!

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum extends thanks

to all of the exhibitors for their cooperation and for the continued quality of their work. The Fair offers the public an outstanding opportunity to not only buy quality wildlife art, but also a chance to watch the artists at work. Special thanks to the many volunteers who helped during the weekend. Your support of the museum is most appreciated.



From left to right: Charlie Pierce, Joey Jobes, and Vernon Bryant compete in the Open Head Whittling Contest.



Some of the twenty-seven youngsters who painted miniature decoys with Noble Mentzer on Sunday afternoon.



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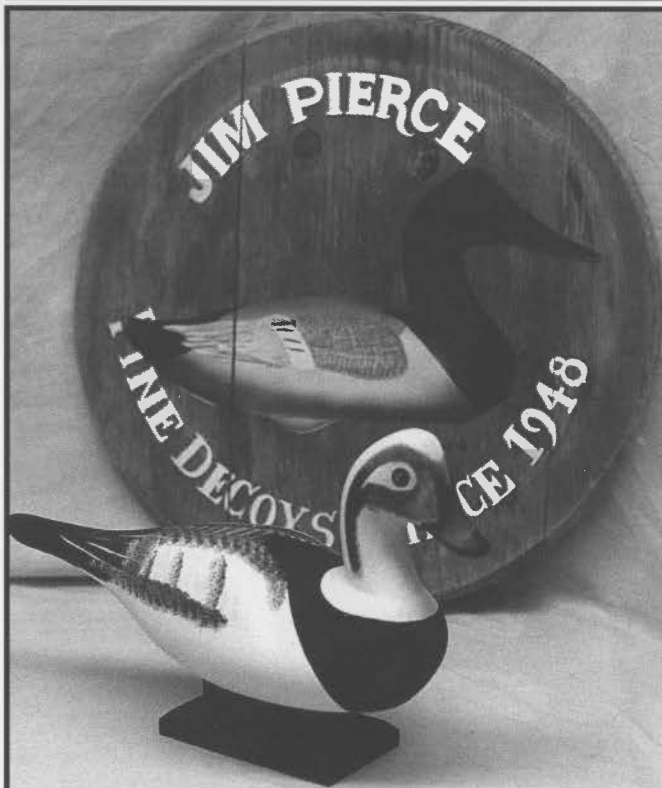
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A Gesture of Recognition for "Speed" Joiner

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum has recently nominated carver Charlie "Speed" Joiner for the Governor's Arts Award. Presented biennially, the Governor's Arts Awards at ArtSalute recognize the exceptional achievements and beneficence of Maryland's individual artists, arts educators, arts patrons, and businesses that have demonstrated outstanding support of the arts. The Decoy Museum has nominated Charlie for the individual artist award, which is conferred upon an individual who has made a long-term contribution and achieved significant recognition in an art form. Those of you who know Charlie and his work certainly understand the museum's desire to honor him with this nomination. For those who are less familiar with his work, the text of the narrative submitted for the nomination follows:

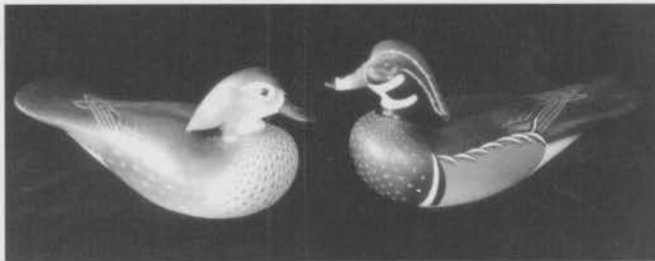
"The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum nominates Charles Joiner for the Governor's Art Award for an Individual Artist in recognition of his lifelong contributions to the folk art of decoy carving. Charles is widely recognized as the premier carver of working decoys in the Upper Chesapeake region today. In the course of his carving career, he has produced well over 20,000 decoys, and collectors covet his works above those of any other regional carver. His decoys regularly sell at auction for as much as \$5000 a pair, and he was selected to be the Honorary Chairman of the Decoy Museum's 1987 Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival. Perhaps more impressively, Charles has made it a priority to support others in his craft, as well as the Decoy Museum.

Charles "Speed" Joiner began carving in the early 1940s at the age of twenty for the simple reason that he could not afford to purchase the decoys he needed for hunting on the Susquehanna Flats. Intrigued by the art, Charles began to make regular visits to the shop of R. Madison Mitchell, the undisputed master of the Havre de Grace carving style. He studied Mitchell's techniques, patterns, and painting process, and Mitchell introduced Charles to the Ward Brothers, the Eastern Shore's master carvers. Today, Charles Joiner is a remarkably versatile artist. His work reflects the very different styles of Mitchell

and the Ward Brothers, and he carves decorative half-sized and miniature birds in addition to his full-sized decoys. He also employs a variety of carving techniques. For round-bottomed Upper Chesapeake decoys, Charles uses a pattern inherited from Mitchell to lathe-turn the bodies, while he hand-carves all flat-bottomed birds. Such flexibility is remarkable among carvers. Charles is perhaps best known, however, for his painting. In the 1980s, Mitchell called him "the best painter in the state today."

What makes "Speed" Joiner even more exceptional are his integrity and efforts to foster the traditional folk art of decoy carving. Charles has always charged very modest prices for his works, and he has imparted his expertise to over a dozen aspiring carvers. His students include Dave Blackiston, Bob Coleman, Barry Fuchs, Bill Schaubert, and his nephew, Billy Joiner, all now accomplished artists.

Also, Charles's patronage of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum has been unwavering. The museum relies heavily on auction proceeds to provide operating expenses. Since the museum opened in 1986, Charles has spontaneously donated highly desired decoys for each of the four auctions the museum holds annually. In sum, these donated artworks have raised over \$80,000 for the museum.



Wood ducks donated by Charlie for the museum's Fall Raffle.

No other carver save Madison Mitchell has been so generous.

Charles Joiner deserves the Governor's Art Award in recognition of the significant impact he has had on the folk art of decoy making throughout his career. Not only has he perfected his art and earned the respect of his peers and collectors alike, he has worked to secure the future and elevate the status of carving as an art form by supporting the Decoy Museum and assisting new carvers. Such accomplishment and philanthropy combined in a single individual should certainly be honored."

The Maryland Citizen for the Arts Foundation will review all applications and select the winners. The awards will be presented on June 7, 2000 at a celebration to be held at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore. Good luck, Charlie! And thank you for all of your support through the years!



Candlelight Tour, Sale and Carvers Celebration

Sunday, December 12th, 1999

11:00 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Special Members Only Sale — members receive 25%
off all gift shop purchases**

Decoy carvers exhibiting and offering their work

Fall Raffle drawing at 8:00 p.m.



Tickets for the 27th Annual Candlelight
Tour of Havre de Grace on sale at the Decoy
Museum or by phoning Madelyn Shank at
410-939-3947.



Museum News

NEW FACES

Those of you who have visited the Decoy Museum in the past few months have encountered many new faces. Since last spring, the museum has hired new individuals to fill each position on the staff as former employees have moved on to fresh opportunities. This new team is enthusiastic about the museum and its mission and is having fun getting to know the museum's visitors and members. Here is your opportunity to learn a little about each of them!

In mid-August, the Board of Directors hired Jennifer Jones as the museum's new director. Jennifer received her Master's degree in American history and Museum Studies from the University of Delaware in 1998 and has experience in a variety of museum settings. Most recently, she worked in the education departments of the National Building Museum in Washington, DC and the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore. As she familiarizes herself with her duties as director, Jennifer is enjoying learning about the arts of decoy carving and waterfowl hunting and meeting all of the wonderful people associated with the museum.

Kay Morrison came to the museum in late July as the new special events coordinator. Kay comes to the Decoy Museum from the Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh, where she served first as a docent, then as an assistant to the special events coordinator, and ultimately as the volunteer coordinator. Born and raised in Aberdeen, Maryland, she is thrilled to have returned to her hometown following a thirty year absence. After successfully tackling the Yard Sale in July and the Duck Fair in September, Kay is now planning December's Candlelight Sale and Carver Celebration, as well as the 19th Annual Decoy, Wildlife Art, and Sportsman Festival.

Heidi Schnakenberg has been at the museum somewhat longer. She assumed responsibility for the front desk and gift shop in April and has been hard at work organizing admissions and membership procedures and redefining the focus of the gift shop. With ten years of retail experience at the Kitchen Collection and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Heidi is well-suited to directing the museum's retail activities. And as the first, and sometimes only, staff member to greet visitors, Heidi's positive attitude and broad base of knowledge are great assets to the museum.

In this staff of newcomers, Julie Hawkins is the

veteran. Hired in March, Julie is the museum's part-time finance assistant and much more. Her official duties include bookkeeping, check-writing, banking, mail distribution, and coordination of bulk mailings, but she also willingly helps out at special events, assists with grant writing, maintains personnel files, and staffs the front desk. After serving as the office manager for Hawkins Brothers Utilities, Inc., Julie can handle any administrative task that comes her way.

The museum's most recent hire is Brenda Dorr, who joined the staff in early October as the part-time curator and is already improving the museum's collections management. A trained anthropologist, Brenda has specialized in the curation of archeological materials and has worked closely with Native Americans in New England and the Southwest. She looks forward to using the knowledge gained from these experiences to refine curatorial practices, install exciting temporary exhibitions, update permanent exhibitions, and add an anthropological perspective to the museum's exploration of waterfowl hunting culture.

There has also been an addition to the gift shop staff. Peter Drysdale continues his faithful service, but he now shares weekend duties with Ramon Carmona. Ramon brings three years of retail experience to the museum and can be found each weekend serving gift shop customers with a smile.

Despite the fact that this new staff has been assembled only recently, each member of the team is already handling his or her responsibilities well. Most impressive is the spirit of cooperation and degree of camaraderie that has developed in a matter of weeks. The new staff members are anxious to be of service and look forward to meeting the Decoy Museum's loyal body of members and visitors. Next time you are in the area, please stop by and say hello.

MEMBERSHIP MONTH

As announced in the summer issue of *The Canvasback*, September was Membership Month. Each individual or group who applied for a new or renewed membership received either a replica of the Concord Point Lighthouse or a biography of R. Madison Mitchell as a token of the museum's appreciation. The campaign was very successful. In addition to 107 renewed memberships

and five upgrades, twenty-eight new individuals and twelve new families joined the museum. Many of these new members joined while visiting the Duck Fair on September 11 and 12. Participation has now reached an all-time high of 1415 members, enabling the museum to continue to expand its educational opportunities. Welcome to our new members, and thank you to all who so generously support the Decoy Museum!

UPCOMING EVENTS

As the year draws to a close, the museum will offer its final special event for 1999. The annual Candlelight Sale and Carver Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, December 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. After touring the historic homes of Havre de Grace, stop by the museum to enjoy our decorations, browse the exhibits, and finish your Christmas shopping. During this one-day event, admission to the museum will be free, and museum members will receive a 25% discount on any item in the gift shop. Also, carvers will exhibit their work for sale in the second floor gallery. Mark your calendars now to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!

MIDDLE SCHOOL VISIT

On Friday, October 8, the entire sixth grade from Havre de Grace Middle School visited the Decoy Museum. The event was part of the school's annual museum visitation, during which the students tour each of the city's museums. In all, 196 students and thirty-three adults participated in the program and responded positively to the Decoy Museum's offerings. Special thanks to Noble Mentzer and Mitch Shank for introducing the children to the museum. With the help of these two fine volunteers, the museum has no doubt inspired several of these young people to learn more about decoys and the culture of their hometown.

COLLECTIONS NEWS

This fall, there have been two significant donations to the Decoy Museum's collections. Robert Lawder bequeathed to the museum a very valuable collection of decoys that includes several Bob McGaw miniatures. Also, Allen Fair recently donated a collection of Ed "Pop" Sampson birds to the collection. The curator is currently working with the museum's collections committee to evaluate these objects. The Decoy Museum is always seeking new objects for its collections and appreciates all donations. For more information on donating objects, please contact Brenda Dorr, the museum's curator.

EXHIBIT UPDATE

Many recent visitors to the museum have commented on the quality of the temporary exhibits now in place in the main gallery. Ed Darwin's fish carvings, which occupy the large central display case, have attracted much attention, and nearly all visitors stop by the selection of Mike Affleck's taxidermy mounts displayed by the front door. These exhibits will remain until December.

In January, the curator will install three intriguing new temporary exhibitions, which will run through mid-summer. Ken Clodfelter will provide a number of decorative carvings for the exhibit in the small case just inside the museum's front door. Dr. Everette James will supply the objects and expertise for the other two exhibits. An expert on North Carolina decoys, Dr. James will loan approximately twenty-five decoys to the museum for a large display in the main gallery. In addition, Dr. James will provide the museum with a smaller display that examines the use of X-ray technology for the detection of counterfeit decoys. The mounting of these two exhibitions will be celebrated by a formal opening to be held in mid-January, 2000. Information on this event will be mailed to members in December. Watch your mailboxes!

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March 25 & 26, 2000

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Sun. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



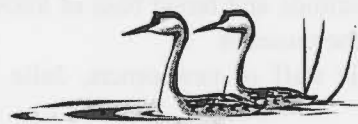
Auction – Sun. 4:00 p.m.

Honorary Chair & Carver: John Nickle

Honorary Artisan: Ned Ewell



Bel Air High School
Bel Air, Maryland

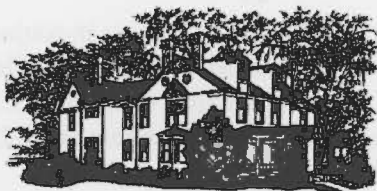


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Membership Application

Membership in the Museum offers you significant benefits not available to the general public. Each member receives four issues of *The Canvasback* magazine free of charge. Additionally, members gain free entry to the Museum, notification of Museum events and a 10% discount in the Museum's Gift Shop.

Name: _____

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City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Annual Membership Level:

Student: \$15 _____

Individual: \$20 _____

Family: \$35 _____

Business: \$100 _____

Life Member: \$500 _____

Please mail this form with your check or money order to:

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, Membership

P.O. Box 878

Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078

CALENDAR

November

10-11

Annual Fall Decoy Auction by Guyette & Schmidt. Easton, Maryland. Held at the Talbot County Community Center. For catalogs and further information call (207) 778-6256.

12-14

29th Annual Waterfowl Festival. Easton Maryland. For more information contact: Waterfowl Festival, P.O. Box 929, Easton, MD 21601. (410) 822-4567.

20-21

Woodland Academy Wildlife Expo. Montrose, Virginia. Features decoy carving and painting demonstrations, a decoy contest, a hunting simulator, and bow demonstrations. Sale items include antique, hunting, and decorative decoys, original paintings, prints, jewelry, collectibles, fishing equipment, and much more. For more information, please call (804) 4938244.

20-21

Annual Nur Shrine Decoy Exhibit. New Castle, Delaware. Includes carvings, paintings, crafts, and refreshments. See ad in this issue for more information.

December

12

Candlelight Tour, Sale & Carver Demonstration. Havre de Grace, Maryland. Tour historic sites in Havre de Grace. Carvers will be working and selling their decoys on the second floor of the Decoy Museum. Take advantage of special sales in the museum gift shop to complete your Christmas shopping. Free admission to the museum. Call (410) 939-3739 for details.

January

19

Seminar on American Waterfowl Decoys in conjunction with the auction of Dr. James M. McCleery's collection. Held by Sotheby's Auction House, New York. Contact Sotheby's American Folk Art Department at (212) 606-7225 for more information.

22-23

Auction of Dr. James M. McCleery's collection. Sotheby's Auction House, New York City. Over 700 lots, including nearly 425 waterfowl decoys, will be auctioned. Contact Sotheby's at (212) 606-7225 for additional information.

February

5-6

16th Annual Ocean County Wildfowl Art & Decoy Show, Competition, and Seminars (formerly Toms River). Held at the Brick High School in Brick, New Jersey. Features the works of artists and carvers from Maine to Florida, many carving competitions, free carving seminars, and children's activities. For more information, contact Janet Sellitto at the Ocean County YMCA at (732) 341-9622, ext. 2214.

12-13

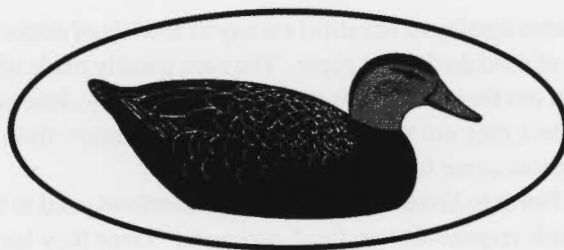
27th Annual "California Open" Wildlife Art Festival. Del Mar California. Features carvers and wildlife art competition. Held at the Hilton San Diego/Del Mar. For more information contact Tom and Darlene Westbrook at (858) 271-1714.

To have your event included in this calendar, simply mail us your information. Inclusion in the calendar is free. The deadline for submission for the winter issue of *The Canvasback* is January 8, 2000.

19th Annual Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival

DECOY AUCTION

CONSIGNMENTS WANTED



Auction held

Saturday, May 6, 2000 at 5:30 p.m.

Havre de Grace High School Auditorium

700 Congress Avenue, Havre de Grace, MD

The Festival Committee is *now accepting consignments of fine quality decoys* to fill 100 lots. The commission rate will be 10% from the seller and 10% from the buyer. All proceeds will benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.

Decoys by the Holly Family are especially desired for the auction.

Consignments must be received by April 1, 2000.

Interested parties should contact:

Kay Morrison, Special Events Coordinator

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

(410) 939-3739

Just for Ducklings

At last kids have their own page in *The Canvasback*! Each issue of the magazine will now include "Just for Ducklings," an opportunity for youngsters to learn a little about decoy making and collecting, waterfowl hunting, ecological issues, and Havre de Grace heritage!

MATCHING

Directions: Read the following passage about waterfowl habitat and then show off what you've learned by completing the matching exercise. See how many matches you can make without looking back at the passage.

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum displays a beautiful variety of models of ducks and geese. These models are called **decoys** and are man-made imitations of wild ducks and geese. They are usually made of wood and represent many different **species**, or types, of birds. Hunters set out these decoys to attract live birds to fly close enough for the hunters to shoot them. Because they want to hunt in areas where they are sure to find many birds, hunters often place the decoys among the grasses of shallow waters where ducks and geese come for food.

As they **migrate** each year from North to South and back again, waterfowl need to find safe **environments** as stopping places. Like all animals, migrating birds require shelter, food, and water. Once they leave their natural **habitats**, or homes, they usually follow fly-ways, or flying routes, near bodies of water such as the Susquehanna River to make access to these necessities easy. The waterfowl need healthy environments anywhere they touch down during their trip.

Sub-aquatic vegetation, or underwater plant-life, is an important source of food for waterfowl. This vegetation requires **nutrients**, or nourishing vitamins and minerals from the earth, and light to grow. Two important nutrients are phosphorous and calcium, which are washed by running water like streams from the land into ponds, lakes, and **wetlands**, areas of ground covered by standing water. Plants need sunlight for **photosynthesis**, the process by which they make their own food. Where water is shallow, a lot of sunlight is able to penetrate the water and reach the plants. For this reason, vegetation growing on **flats**, or areas of shallow water, is often very healthy if there is not too much pollution and there are enough nutrients.

Waterfowl depend on finding plentiful sub-aquatic vegetation when they stop to rest during migration. Once vegetation was abundant on the Susquehanna Flats, the body of water that lies next to Havre de Grace. Wild celery was an abundant source of food there for many birds. This plentiful food source attracted millions of ducks and geese each year to the Flats. But this all began to change about thirty years ago. A hurricane brought very heavy rains to the East Coast, which washed a lot of **silt**, or dirt, down the Susquehanna River. The silt settled right at the spot where the river empties into the Chesapeake Bay, and it covered up most of the sub-aquatic vegetation, killing it. Increasing pollution throughout this century also helped to destroy the plants. Without the wild celery to eat, far fewer ducks and geese visit the Susquehanna Flats now. Their main source of food is gone. Hopefully, as people like you work to stop pollution and as the Flats heal from the damage caused by the hurricane, some of the celery grass will grow back and the ducks will return.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. habitat | a. man-made imitations of wild waterfowl |
| ___ 2. decoy | b. area of shallow water |
| ___ 3. nutrient | c. underwater plants |
| ___ 4. flats | d. surroundings or life system |
| ___ 5. species | e. type of living thing |
| ___ 6. photosynthesis | f. to move to a new area on a seasonal basis |
| ___ 7. wetland | g. vitamins and minerals from the earth |
| ___ 8. sub-aquatic vegetation | h. area of ground covered by standing water |
| ___ 9. environment | i. food-making process of plants using sunlight |
| ___ 10. silt | j. dirt |
| ___ 11. migrate | k. an animal's natural home |

ANSWER KEY: 1.k 2.a 3.g 4.b 5.e 6.i 7.h 8.c 9.d 10.j 11.f

Sporting Clays Shoot

By Kay Morrison with David Walker

The 3rd Annual Sporting Clays Shoot to benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum was held on July 31, 1999 at Alexander's Sporting Farms in Golts, Maryland. According to Chairman David Walker, about 110 people attended the day long shoot, with seventy-two entrants in the competitions. Attendees came from Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. The shoots were fun to watch even if you were not in competition.

When the events had all been scored, there emerged a three-way tie for the HOA, high over-all prize, a Beretta AL390 shotgun. This prize was paid for by Pat and Jeannie Vincenti. To solve the problem of three men and one gun, a shoot-off was held for John Sobolik, Mark Helmick, and Jack Concannon. Jack Concannon won and



Pictured left to right are: Steve Lay, Kenny Lay, Ed Watts, and David Walker. Photo courtesy of Kenny Lay.

was awarded the prize gun. Another Beretta AL390 was awarded as an Attendance Prize. The HOA Museum Prize, a wildlife print provided by the museum, was also won by Jack Concannon. Mai Manning won the Ladies Class cash prize.

Thanks to generous donations from several decoy carvers, an auction was held during the day. Thank you to: Jimmy Pierce, Vernon Bryant, Butch Parker, Charles Joiner, Charlie Bryan, Charlie Jobes, Joey Jobes, Bryon Bodt, and Bobby Jobes for donating their works.

The volunteers who assisted Dave Walker with the various shoots and helped with details were: Mike Affleck, Ed Watts, Kenny Lay, Fred Gillotte, Norm Smith, Sherry Ramey, and Mike Veasey. Thank you to all who volunteered their time to support this event. It was an enjoyable day for the participants and a great fundraiser for the museum.

Individuals and businesses contributed financial support to the Sporting Clays Shoot as well. The museum expresses thanks to the following: Mert Street, Dr. John Carriere, Vincenti Decoys, The Crazy Swede Restaurant, Harford Alarm Co., Chesapeake Rent-All, Comer Construction, BCH Real Estate, Inc., Walker Decoys, Level Heating and Air, Hill Properties, Diversified Machine,



Third Annual Sporting Clays Shoot Prize Table. Photo courtesy of Kenny Lay.

Inc., Tidewater Marina, Arnold Graphics, Inc., Andrew P. Figart, Paidon Products, Sinclair Decoys, State Farm Insurance/Buck Roberts, Cytex Fiberite, Inc. Key Bank/Hank Schreiber, Ryan Furniture, Ontario Printing, Hawkins Brothers Utilities, Inc., Aero/Friendly Oil, Denny's Restaurant, Fred's Welding, and Harford Sanitation.

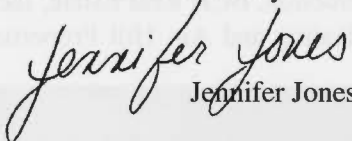
If you missed this year's Sporting Clays, next year it is scheduled for August 5, 2000. The time and place will be determined at a later date. Watch for more news in upcoming editions.

FROM THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 3)

debt of gratitude to Dr. John A. Carriere, President of the Board. Dr. Carriere essentially assumed the role of director from June through August. He sat behind the director's desk nearly every day of the summer, working on grant applications and reports, directing financial transactions, supervising special events planning, and handling nagging administrative details. And all the while he was conducting the search for a new director. For a gentleman enjoying his retirement, the dedication of so much time and effort for the benefit of the museum was exceptional.

Thanks to the special contributions of the board members and other volunteers, the museum has passed through this "time of troubles" unharmed, and a full staff is now in place. Thank you to all who worked so tirelessly for the museum this summer and who have been so helpful in assisting the new hires as they familiarize themselves with their duties. We couldn't have made it without you!


Jennifer Jones

CLASSIFIED

For our members we offer free classified ads to buy, sell, and trade decoys or related objects. Please keep ads under 15 words. For non-members, the cost is \$5.00 for 15 words. Mail your classified ads to: Decoy Museum, 215 Giles Street, Havre de Grace, MD 21078.

FOR SALE: Hand carved decoys by Wilfred Bush. Three different sizes, twenty different kinds. Prices start at \$35 a pair. Call (309) 346- 2510 or write to 275 Derby Street, Pekin, IL 61554 for price list.

WANTED: Old waterfowling & shorebird hunting photos. Duck, goose, and swan neck and leg bands. Old duck hunting books. Dean Dashner, 349 S. Green Bay Rd., Neenah, WI 54954 or call (920) 725-4350.

FOR SALE: 1981 Maryland Duck Stamp Print. Remarque by Lem Ward & Jack Shroeder. Special edition. Call Jim Kelly at (410) 825-1522.

WANTED: New Jersey, Delaware River, Crisfield, Sterling -Wards, Illinois River, Ducks, Geese, Swans & Mergansers. Call Herb at (212) 861-1414.

Weekend Carving Demonstrations

at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

Nov 6	open
Nov 7	Barb Wachter
Nov 13	Joe Cook
Nov 14	Bill Meyers
Nov 20	Wayne Thayer
Nov 21	John Ingoglia
Nov 27	Butch and Mary Carol Larrimore
Nov 28	open

Weekend carving demonstrations will be held during December and January, although the schedule has not yet been organized. We apologize for this inconvenience. Please call the Decoy Museum at (410) 939-3739 for updated information.

If you are interested in becoming a weekend carver on any OPEN dates, please contact Pat Vincenti at (410) 734-6238.

WANTED: Ducks and geese of the East Coast , New Jersey, N.Y., New England, and Illinois River. Call Herb (212) 873-2004.

WANTED: Decoy or body with "Reckless" Brand. Call Dan at (410) 586-2378.

BUYING: Any decoys, including miniatures, pictures, photos, and memorabilia of Douglas Jester (1876-1961) of Chincoteague, Virginia. Call Fitz Godwin at (703) 528-9800 or write to 26C Auburn Ct., Alexandria, Virginia 22305. All is of interest for purchasing, especially pictures of Mr. Jester's carving decoys or any pictures of his boats.

WANTED: Daniel Baker III Goose full-size goose decoy, 1990. Call Matt at (410) 586-9585.

WANTED: The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum seeks donations or loans of decoys carved by members of the Holly family. Call Brenda Dorr, curator at (410) 939-3739.



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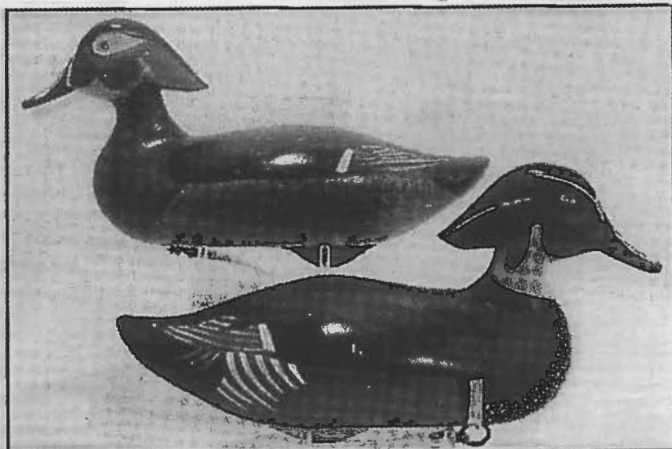
SPORTING COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY



VOLUME 11 NO. 12

RW PUBLISHING

DECEMBER, 1998



Madison Mitchell Wood Duck Pair goes for \$5250 at FRANK & FRANK Oct. auction. (See pg. 9)

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