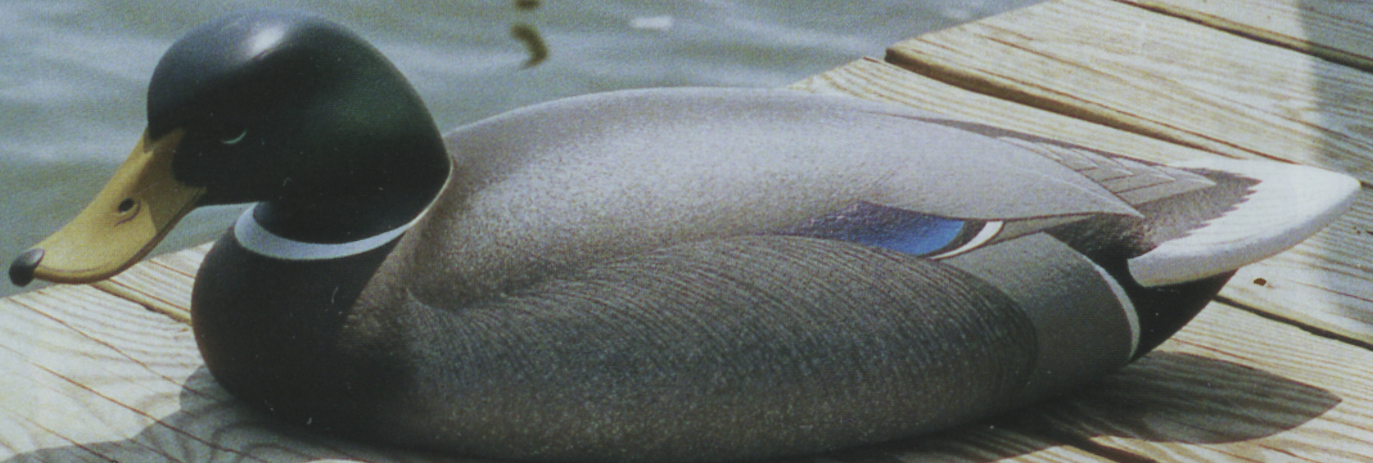


The Canvasback

Summer 2000
Vol. 9, No. 3

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

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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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ON THE COVER

A mallard drake suns himself on the docks of Havre de Grace.

FROM THE EDITOR

In early May, Baltimore was fortunate enough to host the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums. This national conference drew professionals from museums across the nation and provided them with the opportunity to learn a little bit about how other institutions are managing their collections, reaching new audiences, finding funding, attracting members, and much more. The Decoy Museum's curator and I attended the meeting and gathered information and inspiration that will be put to good use in the months ahead as we develop new educational programs and exhibits.

What impressed me most during the conference, however, was not what I learned at any of the sessions. Instead, I was struck most by the myriad of fascinating museums that stretch across the United States. From the San Diego Zoo to the Huguenot Historical Society and from the National Museum of the American Indian to our own Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, there is a museum to interest everyone! And these institutions exist solely for the public's enjoyment and edification. They offer opportunities to learn about the miraculous operation of the human heart, contemplate the beauty of a Monet painting, and understand the lives of our ancestors. No longer are museums stuffy institutions reserved for society's elite. Today, they welcome all of us to see what they have to offer and to participate in a variety of exciting activities for children and adults. So, as you make your plans for next weekend, consider a trip to a museum. You won't regret it!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Jones

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*From
the
President*



Dear Museum Member,

The recent death of A. Donald Asher leaves a void for us that will never be filled. Every time we think of our Museum, we should remember it was Donald's idea to start a decoy museum in the first place. His efforts and those of the other founding fathers are the cornerstone of what we have today.

Today, the Museum functions with a very efficient and dedicated full and part-time staff, an elected Board of Directors, and a reliable group of loyal volunteers. We definitely need more volunteers to assist the staff with the daily chores that must be performed. Any member that has some time to donate will be welcomed by our Director to take part in our everyday activities, either on a regular or occasional basis.

Early in July, members received a nominating ballot for the Museum's Board of Directors. It is my hope that each member will think about submitting his or her name for consideration. Each of you has a talent that could benefit the Museum. Some skills are more relevant than others, but each of you has a skill that I hope you will be willing to share for the good of the Museum. There are many different areas such as fund raising, organization, public relations, and just plain good business sense that could help us.

As currently organized, the Board of Directors is a working group. Each member chairs or co-chairs a major committee and takes turns staffing the Museum on Saturdays and Sundays. Board meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month, and board members are required to attend at least nine meetings a year. Time requirements for board members are not excessive. Please think about nominating yourself or any other museum member that would be willing to serve. Help us make Donald Asher's idea an even greater success than it is now.

Yours truly,

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

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Review of the 19th Annual Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival

By Kay Morrison

The first weekend in May brought unseasonably warm weather with temperatures in the nineties on both Saturday and Sunday. But, as they say, the show must go on, and the first weekend in May is Festival time, no matter what the weather! Fortunately, despite the extreme heat, the 19th Annual Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival was as successful as ever!

This year's 194 exhibitors set up on Friday afternoon and by 6:00 p.m. were ready to welcome the public to the show. As always, the Festival featured an excellent assemblage of both decorative and gunning decoy exhibitors, many of whom have been with the show since its inception. We were also fortunate to have many wildlife artists and photographers as exhibitors and are striving to increase the number of these artists in the coming years.



Some of the best entries in the carving competition. (Ken Clodfelter)

There were also exhibitors featuring books for the outdoors enthusiast. In addition, several of the Festival sponsors had tables this year and offered literature and promotional items to our guests.

On Saturday morning, the exhibitors were treated to a delicious breakfast buffet at the Bayou Restaurant, a Havre de Grace landmark. Owner Lou Ward, who has



Our carving competition judges carefully evaluate the balance of three entries. (Ken Clodfelter)

always been a supporter of the Decoy Museum, provided the exhibitors a chance to visit and enjoy a meal together before the show opened for the day. We are most appreciative of Lou and his staff for getting up extra early and for offering such fine food and service.

The Carving Competition is always a major element of the Festival. This year's Competition Chairman, Andy Speer, and his very able committee worked for months ahead of time to offer carvers a number of divisions in which to enter their works. (A listing of the Carving Competition winners appears begins on page 26.) In all, 117 carvers entered 333 pieces of work (excluding rigs) in the contest. The quality of the works was outstanding, and



Bidders preview the lots to be sold during the Live Auction. (K. Morrison)

the judges worked very hard to determine the winners in each classification. Of special note is the Youth Division winner, Robert Henry of Mt. Joy, Pennsylvania, who received a \$400.00 gift certificate provided by the Foredom Electric Company. We hope that this prize will allow Robert to choose tools to increase both his interest and skills in carving.

At the Decoy Museum on Saturday, "History Alive" gave three living history presentations featuring "Spittin' Willy" Pawley, a Chesapeake Bay waterfowler who recalls the "good old days" of market gunning. Dr. Gene



James Holly Drennen, Jim Holly's grandson, with author Chad Tragakis. (Elizabeth Langley)

Byrd again brought his wonderful retrievers to the Festival, and they demonstrated their skills in the water to the absolute delight of the crowd! Dr. Byrd was assisted by Marcie Baer, Howard Neals, Jr., and John Bauerle.

At the Middle School, Past Honorary Chairmen Charlie Bryan, Ron Rue, Allen and Bill Schaubert, Roger Urie, Harry Jobes, Charles Joiner, Jim Pierce, and Harry V. Shourds II were on hand for an autograph session, and representatives from the post office offered Postal Service



On Saturday afternoon, the halls were crowded with patrons eagerly examining potential purchases. (J. Jones)

Stamp Canceling in conjunction with commemorative Festival envelopes. Although this year's Honorary Chairmen, the legendary Holly family, are deceased, a number of their relatives were kind enough to attend the Festival and to answer questions posed by visitors. The Museum very much appreciates the support of the Holly descendants and of all our past Honorary Chairmen!

Another highlight of Saturday was the Live Auction, which was held at the close of the day. Auctioneer Jay Edwards volunteered his talents to auction off approximately 130 fine lots. Silent auctions were conducted on both Saturday and Sunday at the High School. These auctions featured items donated by exhibitors. The Decoy Museum would like to thank the exhibitors for their most generous offerings.

On Sunday afternoon, a crowd gathered to watch the master carvers compete in the Head Whittling Contest. This event is a lot of fun to watch, but you do have to watch out for the tall tales that are told! Joey Jobes won first

place, Allen Schaubert placed second, and Vernon Bryant took third place.

Some of you may have caught a glimpse of the Festival on your television at some point on Saturday and Sunday. Much to our delight, Maryland Public Television sent a crew from "On Location" to cover the event. The tape was broadcast during the weekend and was a bonus for our advertising campaign.

Over the course of the three days, we had 4,235 admissions. An event of this size takes much planning and many helpers. Many thanks to all of the Board Members



Visitors browse displays in the Middle School gym. (Elizabeth Langley)

who carried out their various responsibilities both during the months of planning and during the Festival itself. Festival Chairman Jim Pierce guided the entire event from beginning to end and was always available to the staff with answers to our questions. The Decoy Museum is also very grateful to the sixteen major sponsors who supported this event. Lastly, we would like to thank the many, many volunteers who worked on everything from answering phone calls to making exhibitor badges to staffing the various areas of the Festival. Without your help we could never have produced what has become a much anticipated annual event for the Decoy Museum and for Havre de Grace. Thanks to everyone! We look forward to seeing you next year!



Descendants of the Hollies kindly shared their family history with Festival patrons. (Elizabeth Langley)

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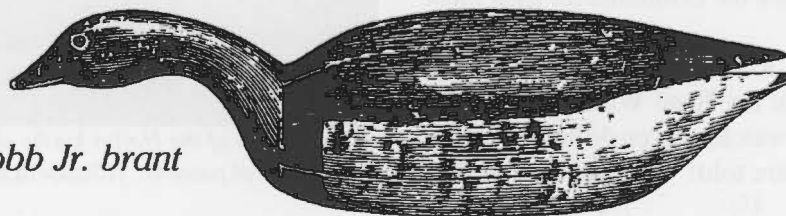
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CHARLIE BRYAN

by James L. Trimble

BALTIMORE AREA SPORTSMAN AND DECOY MAKER

Charlie Bryan of Middle River, Maryland began making decoys when he returned from the Pacific at the end of World War II. This Navy veteran, an avid small game hunter, had learned the techniques of hunting at his father's side on the rolling farms and woodlands to the north of his native Baltimore. Because of increased demands for affordable veteran housing, these rural upland game areas quickly disappeared. The remaining tracts were prohibitively expensive to lease.

Bryan was introduced to bluebill shooting in the Miller Island area of nearby Back River by John Simon, a co-worker at Bethlehem Steel and an avid duck and goose hunter. Bryan worked as a machinist for the Patapsco and Back River Railroad, owned by Bethlehem Steel, from 1946 until his retirement in 1980.

The Back River was familiar territory to Bryan and his wife Anna who lived on a peninsula of land bounded by Middle River to the north and Back river to the south. Their home abutted Middle River several miles north of its mouth at the Chesapeake Bay. Born in 1920, Bryan had

fished these waters with his father, and after meeting Simon, waterfowl shooting became a natural extension.

Before long Bryan and Simon expanded their hunting terrain, gunning various points around Back River, Rocky Point and into the Dundee and Salt Peters Creek near the old Carroll Island Gun Club. They also hunted puddle ducks to the north on the Bird River. During this transition period from small game to wildfowl, Bryan hunted with others who owned decoys. He curbed his expenses by repainting and refurbishing stools for his gunning partners and later for other hunters.

The refurbishing of gunning rigs brought new found popularity and an increase in invitations for hunting trips. Bryan went to the Eastern Shore to shoot geese in Chestertown and Rock Hall. His first decoys were goose silhouettes that he made and supplied for these trips. Recognizing an opportunity, he began selling the silhouettes to offset his expenses.

Bryan met another group of hunters that included Frank Wolf and George Cannon, a machinist and ship



Bryan sold many black duck decoys in the 1960s through the National Sporting Goods Company. This example was made with a Madison Mitchell decorative head pattern. While they proved too fragile for hunters, their appeal has lured collectors.

carpenter who worked on the Pier 7 waterfront for the City of Baltimore. These two gunners, who hunted canvasbacks and redheads 30 miles north on the Susquehanna Flats, introduced Bryan to Stan McKinney, a waterman from North East who operated a bushwack rig. The rig consisted of an open power boat and a 16-foot white



Very sculptural high head Canada goose.

bushwack boat with a raised 8-inch white canvas curtain shield that wrapped the bow end. About 100 decoys were set out and then hunters moved 200 to 300 yards upwind. When the ducks alighted among the decoys, McKinney sculled downwind into the birds. Bryan and his hunting partners, concealed behind the white canvas curtain, waited for their prey to take flight.

On one of these trips, Bryan talked with McKinney about the decoys they were using. He learned they were made locally by an undertaker named Madison Mitchell from Havre de Grace, and the guide eventually introduced them. Mitchell extended Bryan an invitation to watch him

and his crew produce decoys in the basement of his funeral home. It was the first time Bryan had seen a body lathe in action. Visiting once or twice a week, Bryan observed the use of a draw knife, and as a machinist, was able to make his own. Mitchell took the time to teach him the paint patterns and gave him a set of specially cut-down brushes. Bryan's first attempt at decoys was canvasbacks that were cut out with a band saw in the early to mid-1950s.

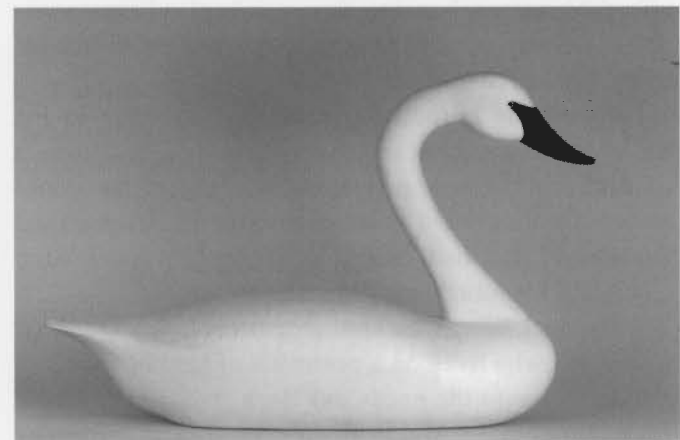
Bryan's gunning partner, Frank Wolf, soon after obtained a Susquehanna Flats bushwacking license. A derelict 26-foot World War II lifesaving boat was given to



Oversized cork black duck with distinctive shoulder carving and bottom board.

the group in exchange for towing it away. Wolf and Cannon extensively renovated the boat and installed a 4-cylinder Palmer engine. A cabin with a stove was added. They also constructed a 16-foot Susquehanna style "wacken" boat. Bryan's responsibility was to supply the stools — canvasback and redhead decoys.

Madison Mitchell offered a two for one trade plan with a number of decoy makers. Provide two acceptable blocks of wood (no hearts), and Mitchell returned one rough lathe-turned body. Bryan quickly joined the program. During the early to mid-1950s many downtown



Rare swan, one of only six that Bryan is reported to have made.

Baltimore neighborhoods were revamped due to the construction of the Harbor Tunnel. A number of Bryan's sporting buddies worked for the Baltimore Gas & Electric Company and were able to set aside old white cedar utility poles. After cutting the poles into mobile lengths on site, Wolf and Bryan hauled the poles home and cut them into suitable blocks.

To satisfy his enthusiasm for gunning, Bryan moved



These goldeneyes saw lots of action on the water before they were retired to a shelf.

to night shift work at Bethlehem Steel for the ensuing hunting season. The tender or "John Goose" boat they salvaged was appropriately named "For Free." These three Baltimore hunters bushwacked the Flats for the next several years until the insurance costs became prohibitive.

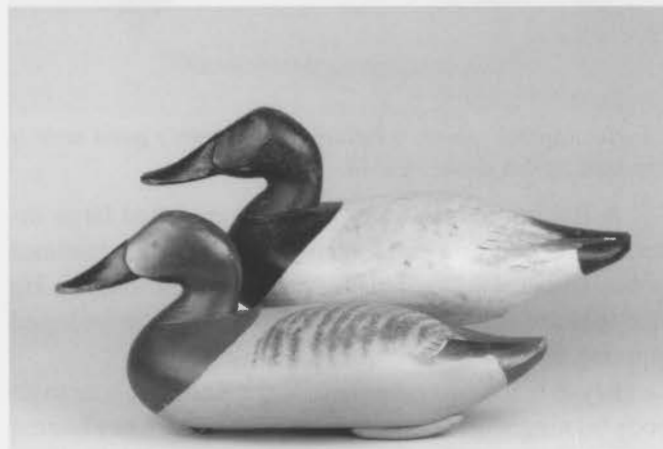
In addition to the lathe-turned bodies, Mitchell supplied Bryan with head patterns. By now he had mastered the draw knife, spoke shave, and Upper Bay paint patterns and was filling decoy orders for two dollars each. Bryan would also belt sand old stools for ten cents and repaint them for an extra quarter. Wolf, who had privileges to five blinds on both sides of the North East River, needed 200 canvasback decoys. Bryan also wanted 200 decoys. The two men sawed and delivered 800 white cedar blocks to Mitchell in return for 400 turned blocks that Bryan finished into decoys.

Mitchell's trade program did have some flaws. Bryan always had access to good quality white cedar. The blocks, when delivered, were inspected then dumped into a large pile with other blocks. Mitchell would call when the bodies were turned. But Mitchell was providing this service for several makers, and after the calls went out, it was first come, first served. Bryan, with family and work responsibilities, could not always respond immediately. So although he provided good quality wood, that quality

was not always reflected in the left over bodies he retrieved. This concern led Bryan to another shop where he paid ten cents each to have bodies turned. Ten years later he built his own machine and began turning bodies at home.

Bryan produced quality decoys that attracted birds at a fair price. There were often more orders than could possibly be completed by fall hunting season. Wolf remembers Bryan timing the traffic lights on his 15-mile drive to and from work at Sparrows Point. He kept cut out heads and knife on his lap so he could carve when he stopped. Bryan also carved heads during many a lunch break.

Around 1956, Simon introduced Bryan to Elmer Simpler, a Susquehanna Flats body booting guide who worked in both Mitchell's and Jim Currier's shop as a painter. His charge was \$20 a day apiece. They took a truck load of their own decoys, as well as some of Elmer's, and by early light, set out over 300 canvasback and redhead stools. Gunning the shoal of water of the lower Flats, with the wind at their backs and the decoys out front, they hid behind silhouette geese in three to four feet of water. Simon recalled the first trip, "The birds came in like bullets and the guns fired repeatedly." A friendly voice, which happened to belong to a game warden, greeted them upon their return, commenting



Bryan's canvasbacks hold true to the Upper Chesapeake Bay style.

about the amount of shooting. They were inspected, they were legal and they had their limit. Body booting provided excitement and gratification for Bryan, completing the transition from small game to waterfowl hunting.

In 1963, with the number of orders continuing to grow, Bryan built a lathe machine. The gunning stools he made consisted primarily of canvasbacks, redheads, bluebills, black ducks, and geese. He also made cork-

bodied black ducks and a few confidence swan. He even experimented with styrofoam molded oversized canvas-back decoys. Bryan accepted orders through spring and worked all summer finishing bodies and carving heads. The weights and paint were applied toward the end of summer, just in time for fall delivery. Satisfied customers often extended additional invitations to hunt.

One customer, National Sporting Goods of downtown Baltimore, purchased about 200 decoys a year for resale to its customers. A problem developed with the black ducks they were selling; several customers complained that the necks were weak and broke easily. Bryan discovered that he had been using Mitchell's decorative head pattern in the production of these decoys. The pattern was replaced, and he converted to a thicker neck. These early scratch-painted black ducks with the sleek necks are highly sought by collectors today.



Charlie "Speed" Joiner's influence on Bryan's paint style is apparent in this drake bluebill.

A Baltimore restaurant owner also placed large orders, 15 dozen at a time, sometimes ducks, sometimes geese. Bryan also handled the repairs and restorations. He also sold and repaired decoys for several Baltimore based gunning clubs.

Bryan made numerous trips to the Eastern Shore to go body booting with Simon and his own father. They hunted at Rock Hall and Chestertown, to Lower Kent Island and St. Michaels, and in the waters near the Blackwater Refuge at Church Creek. The mobility of a body booter was of greater benefit than a blind in an overshot area.

Over the years, Simon also purchased decoys from Charlie "Speed" Joiner, who had worked in Mitchell's shop and had an abundant talent with a paint brush. During one of their trips to Chestertown, Bryan watched "Speed" at work, mixing the paint, the colors, the shading and the strokes. On subsequent trips they discussed techniques. Simon related the anticipation Bryan always held in these visits, and his excitement in seeing the work

lights on in Joiner's shop. Joiner's influence is obvious in Bryan's decoys.

The Bryan decoy reflects the Havre de Grace school, a round lathe-turned body and simple Upper Bay paint patterns. His weights, attached with copper nails, are rounded so they won't scar other decoys when stacked.



Few ruddy duck decoys were made for gunning the Upper Chesapeake Bay. Bryan no doubt made these to lure a collector.

The bills are wide and connect to the outside of the cheek, unlike most Upper Bay decoys that have the cheek cut to the inside of the bill. Some of his later decoys were made with flat bottoms and keels.

Charlie and Anna Bryan, his wife of 57 years, have lived along Middle River for over 50 years. They have also maintained their friendship with Charlie's old co-worker and hunting partner John Simon. Bryan seldom sells decoys that still "go-overboard;" instead most are purchased by collectors, generally in matched pairs. The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum has recognized the quality of his work and displays a permanent collection of his decoys. Since his retirement in 1980, Bryan now finds time to tend to his garden, fish, make a few decoys, clean and oil his Ithaca 10-gauge shotgun, and wait for the ducks and geese to fly when the weather turns cold.

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Jim Trimble is a contributing writer for Decoy Magazine, where his numerous articles have combined his love of history with his interest in Chesapeake Bay decoys. He has owned decoys for more than a quarter of a century and has been collecting seriously for over twenty years.



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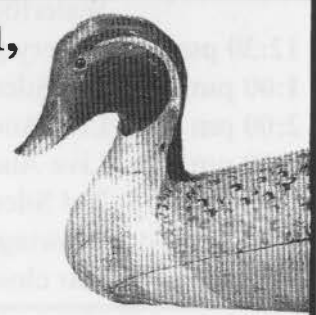
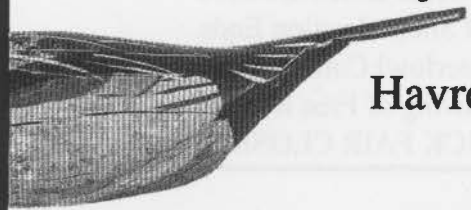


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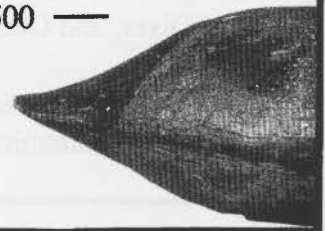
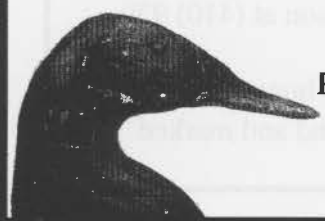
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13th Annual Duck Fair

Honorary Chairman: John Clark

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9

- 9:00 am** DUCK FAIR OPENS
Children's Activities
Bake Sale Opens
Free Raffle Registration begins
- 10:00 am** 1st Silent Auction begins
Waterfowl Calling Demonstration
- 10:30 am** Battery gun firings
- 11:00 am** Honorary Chair Head Whittling Contest
- 11:30 am** Battery gun firings
- 12:00 pm** 1st Silent Auction Ends
Waterfowl Calling Demonstration
- 12:30 pm** Battery gun firings
- 1:00 pm** 2nd Silent Auction Begins
- 2:00 pm** Live Auction Begins
- 3:00 pm** Live Auction Ends
2nd Silent Auction Ends
- 4:30 pm** Drawing of Free Raffle
- 5:00 pm** Fair closes for the day

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10

- 9:00 am** Carving Competition Registration Begins
- 10:00 am** DUCK FAIR RE-OPENS
Children's Activities
Decoy Painting Tent
Bake Sale Opens
Free Raffle Registration Begins
- 10:30 am** 1st Silent Auction Begins
- 11:00 am** Carving Competition Judging
Open Head Whittling Contest
- 12:00 pm** Retriever Demonstration
1st Silent Auction Ends
- 1:00 pm** Retriever Demonstration
2nd Silent Auction Begins
- 2:00 pm** Retriever Demonstration
- 3:00 pm** 2nd Silent Auction Ends
Waterfowl Calling Demonstration
- 3:30 pm** Drawing of Free Raffle
- 4:00 pm** DUCK FAIR CLOSES

Saturday Event Highlights

Live Auction: Join us under the big tent for the Decoy Museum's second largest auction of the year. Preview begins at 10:00 am. Bidder registration from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. Auction begins at 2:00 pm.

Honorary Chair Head Whittling: This is an opportunity to catch the masters at work! Observe our Honorary Chairmen as they address carving challenges, exchange stories, and quickly whittle duck heads!

Sunday Event Highlights

Gunning Decoy Competition: For the first time, the Duck Fair will include a carving competition for Marsh, Diver, and Goose and Confidence decoys! For information, call Kay Morrison at (410) 939-3739.

Retriever Demonstrations: Tim Carrion and Gene Byrd will introduce you to every hunter's best friend. Witness the communication between hunters and their dogs as the dogs perform blind and marked retrieves.

2000 DUCK FAIR HONORARY CHAIRMAN: JOHN CLARK

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is pleased to announce that John Clark has been named the Honorary Chairman of the 2000 Duck Fair.

A lifelong resident of Havre de Grace, Maryland, John has hunted waterfowl on the Susquehanna Flats since the age of six, and it was this passion that led him to the art of decoy production. For years, John body-booted with a handful of gentlemen that included noted carver Pat Vincenti. A strong friendship developed between the two



men, and John found himself spending so much time at Pat's home that, as he says, decoy-making just got into his blood. In 1981, John began to carve his own decoys under Pat Vincenti's tutelage.

John's carving style is very distinctive. For the most part, he produces working decoys — complete with weights and ring and staples. His heads, however, are ornamental, and his decoys are intended for collectors' shelves, although some do find their way into the water. With the help of his wife, John carves full and half-size decoys from white pine and basswood and finishes them with oil paint. His work is of such high quality that he has received prizes in the Ducks Unlimited Carver of the Year competition for

four of the last five years. He placed second in 1996, first in 1997 and 1998, and third in 2000. He did not enter the 1999 contest. To commemorate his designation as Honorary Chairman, John intends to carve a new decoy of some species or style that he has never attempted before.

His exceptional craftsmanship and dedication to the museum inspired the committee to distinguish John as this year's Duck Fair Honorary Chairman. John has been a member of the museum since its opening, and he regularly volunteers to perform weekend carving demonstrations for the public. In recognition of his achievements and service, the Decoy Museum will honor John with a temporary exhibit in the main gallery from July 15 through December 30.

Thank you, John, for your support through the years, and congratulations on this honor!



13th Annual Duck Fair DECOY AUCTION CONSIGNMENTS AND DONATIONS WANTED!

The Decoy Museum is now accepting consignments and donations of quality decoys to fill 50 lots. For consignments, the commission rate will be a 10% seller's premium and a 10% buyer's premium. All proceeds will benefit the Decoy Museum.

DECOYS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH AUGUST 31
Interested parties please contact Brenda Dorr (410) 939-3739.



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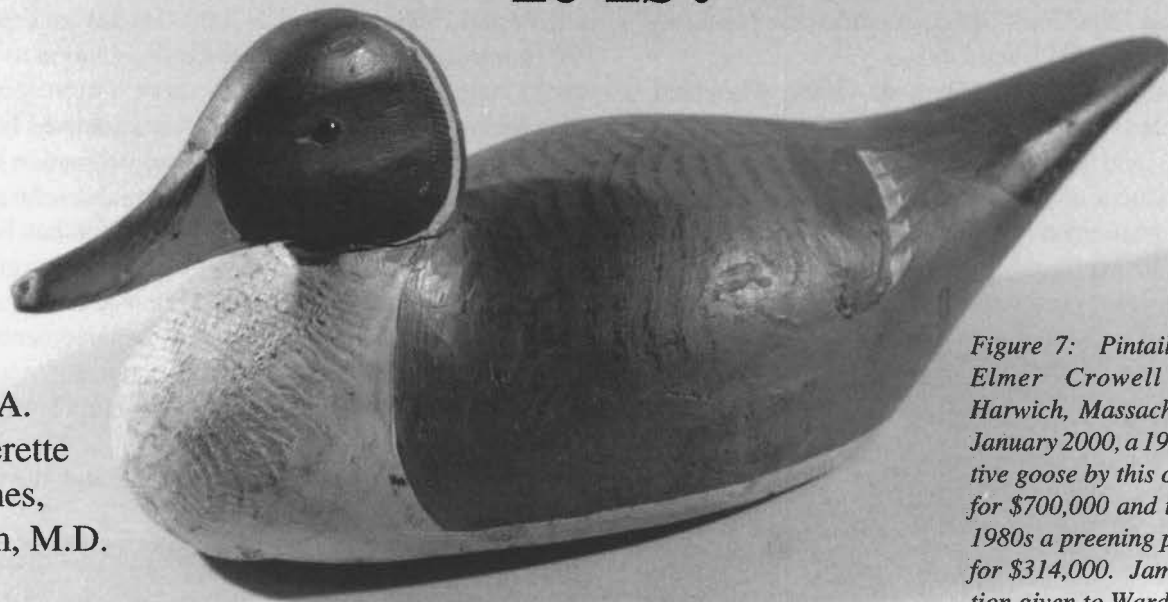


Figure 7: Pintail decoy by Elmer Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts. In January 2000, a 1915 decorative goose by this carver sold for \$700,000 and in the mid-1980s a preening pintail sold for \$314,000. James Collection given to Ward Museum.

In recent months, the literature has been replete with the story of rather astronomical sums paid for antique waterfowl decoys. The McCleery sale on January 22 at Sotheby's in New York realized over ten million dollars when it had been anticipated that the sum could be five to six million dollars. With the buyer's premium, an Elmer Crowell goose sold for over \$700,000, a sum guaranteed to impress decoy collectors, collectors of other genre, and those who will hope to profit from this commercial validation of a rare and, sometimes, beautiful slice of Americana.

In witnessing this singular event, one was reminded of the mid-1980s when the estate of another collector, Dr. George R. Starr of Duxbury, Massachusetts was auctioned. For the first time, a decoy sold publicly for over \$100,000 (in fact, \$205,000) to a cheering audience. Those reports greatly increased the public's interest in these antique slabs of wood that do not always meet the traditional aesthetic criteria of "beauty." In fact, appreciation of decoys moved from an "acquired taste" (as some polite observers mused) to a voracious appetite.

Seemingly unappreciated or underappreciated by the press was that, in the Sotheby's sale, a number of decoys sold for a multiple of the estimate and several sold for over \$100,000. This was not lost upon anyone with real knowledge of the field.

These sums are particularly important in the circum-

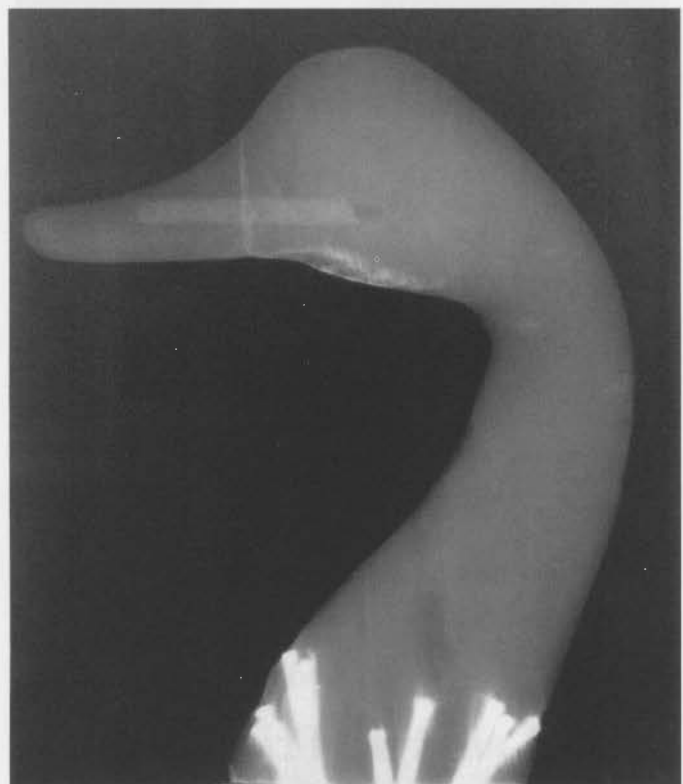


Figure 1: Greater Canada goose. Dowel insertion bill repair. Note original paint inside head, and reinsertion nails at neck base.

stance where the decoys are few in number and often demonstrate significant “in-use” wear. For example, of the six hundred items in the sale, there were only two North Carolina decoys and only a single “bird” from South Carolina. The two North Carolina decoys were by two rare and famous carvers, Lee Dudley of Knotts Island and Alvira Wright of Duck. They both showed signs of their use in the harsh waters of or near the Currituck Sound, but the Dudley redhead was felt to be particularly

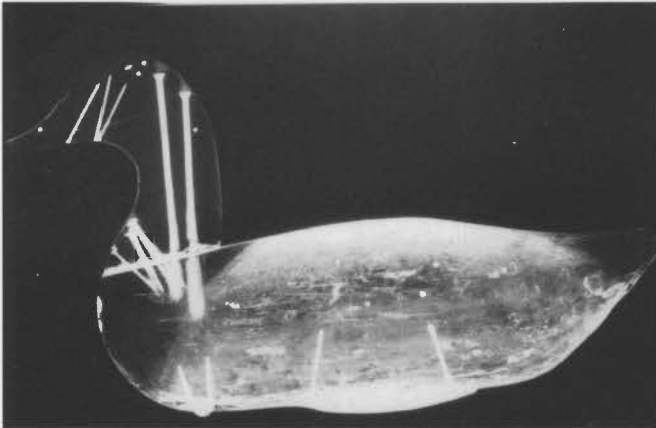


Figure 2: Radiograph of Maryland canvasback (circa 1920-30). Note long nails to reinforce neck, small nails for bill and shot in head and neck. The blurred interface at end nail is due to rust. These are linear radiolucencies.

desirable because the bill was described as “intact,” at least on visual inspection. The ruddy duck by Alvira Wright had significant cracks and “checks” in the body but had “bulky” but nice form. The rarity of these examples is already very well known. They both sold for a large multiple of the pre-sale high estimate.

If history is to be viewed as the basis for future predictions, then we will see a marked increase in interest, value, and temptation to misrepresent and fake valuable decoys. Fakes and misrepresentations will become more



Pintail by Elmer Crowell, donated to Ward Museum. Note check or crack in body.

sophisticated and more difficult to detect as the monetary stakes rise. It will become financially worthwhile to exercise great care and skill to deceive the acquirers. In an area where certain compromises are already made to age and condition, determination of the genuineness of an object is challenging, and both subjective and objective evidence are useful.

Experienced collectors or dealers can assess a decoy just by visually inspecting the object and holding it in their hands. They can tell a great deal about form, the status of the paint, and the external appearances of the hardware. The informal gestalt of having seen many previous examples by a particular carver or school will allow them to render an informed and useful subjective opinion about authenticity and condition.

Fakes and misrepresentations have “improved” to the point that often objective data must be added to the

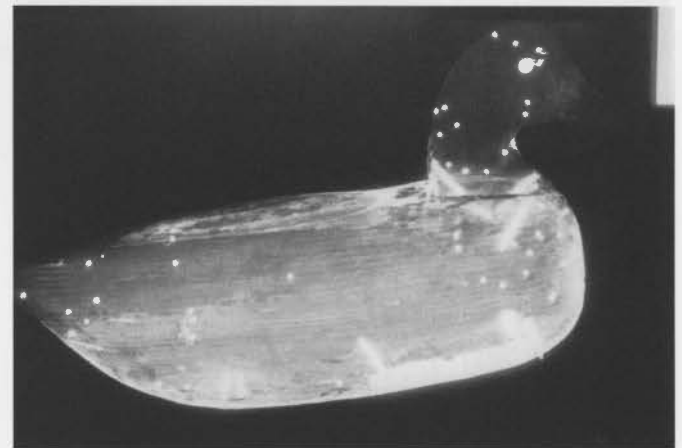


Figure 3: Decoy with fracture at neck base (note discontinuity). The randomly distributed radiopacities represent old lead based paint thought to be “original”. This enhances the value of the decoy substantially. Note also the lead shot and the margins of nails affixing weight.

informed opinion of an expert to arrive at a truly accurate overall value assessment by all significant criteria. A most appropriate method through which to acquire this data is radiographic techniques.

Although in the radiographic armamentarium we have at our disposal such specialized techniques as xeroradiography, digital imaging, computed tomography (sometimes referred to as CAT or CT scanning) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), the most useful technique is the plain film interpreted by an expert.

Radiographs will detect almost invisible bill fractures (Figure 1) and even hairline body cracks and checks (Figure 2). The radiopacity of older paint will demonstrate its extent and distribution (Figure 3). The condition and technique of placement of the internal hardware will be clearly evident (Figure 4). Movement of the hardware

for in-use adjustments will be documented.

Wood that has been aged over time by wind and water can be discriminated from that which has either been recently "aged" by various methods or the circumstance in which old wood is used to fabricate the decoy — the proverbial fence post or ship's mast. In this case, the appearance of the hardware relative to the wood and the evidence of change and reposition of hardware will be important.

Irrespective of whether or not one can see the signs of aging of wood with checks and cracks appearing as radiolucencies, one would expect that, with use in the expected harsh conditions of weather and climate, the hardware would have been moved.

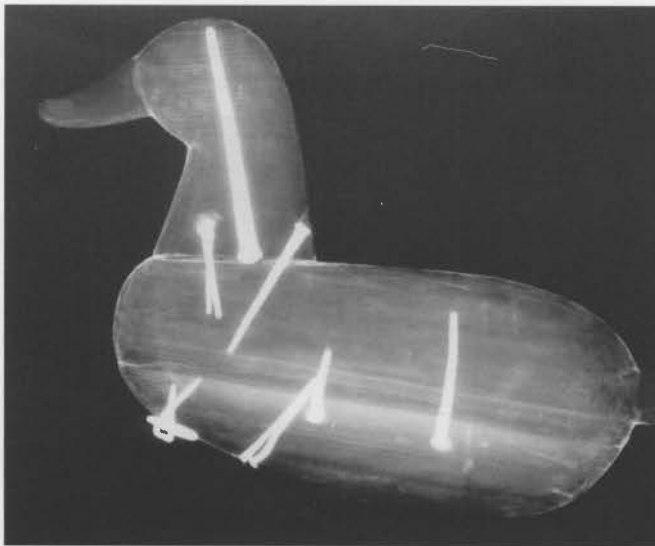


Figure 4: Counterfeit ruddy decoy in the style of Alvirah Wright. Counterfeiting was easily detected by radiographic appearance of internal hardware. The carver has used old wood so some lines of stress and cracks are seen. The nails are much better delineated because they have not rusted as would be expected in an 1890s decoy.

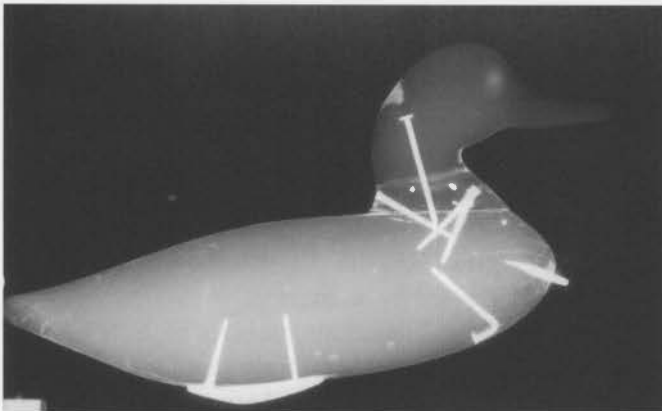


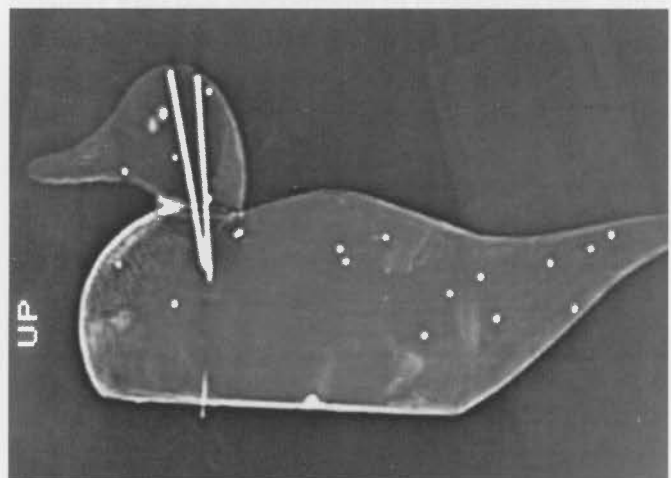
Figure 5: Greenwing teal by Charles Waterfield, Knotts Island NC (circa 1930-40). Note neck reinforcement and presence of shot. James collection.



Figure 6: Upper and lower neck fractures. Previous nail insertion is noted in upper fracture. A part of single nail remains. Nail tracks are evident. Original paint at nail base and lead shot in upper head. Note circular radiopacity of the eye materials.

Often as neck cracks appeared prior to a true fracture, the hunter/carver might drive a nail at right angles or whatever obliquity seemed likely to counter the shearing force that caused the fissure as a preamble to a fracture. This is particularly true in the area of the mid-neck rather than the base or near the bill (Figure 5).

These nails may appear substantially different from the original nails that remain. Their shape might be identifiable, and they will not evidence the internal superficial rust that will predictably occur with years of in-water use, especially in water with a high saline content (Figure 6). If the older nails have been removed, one will see tracks from the superficial rust. Conversely, if the perpetrators have intentionally rusted the nails and then driven them into the wood of the decoy, the rust will be located centrally as it will have been sheared from the



Reconstruction of digital information from computed tomographic (CT) scan. Sometimes known as "scout view".

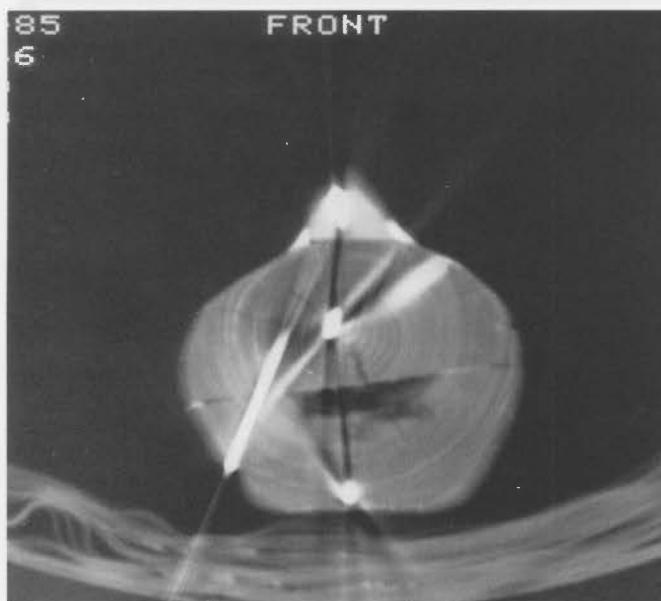
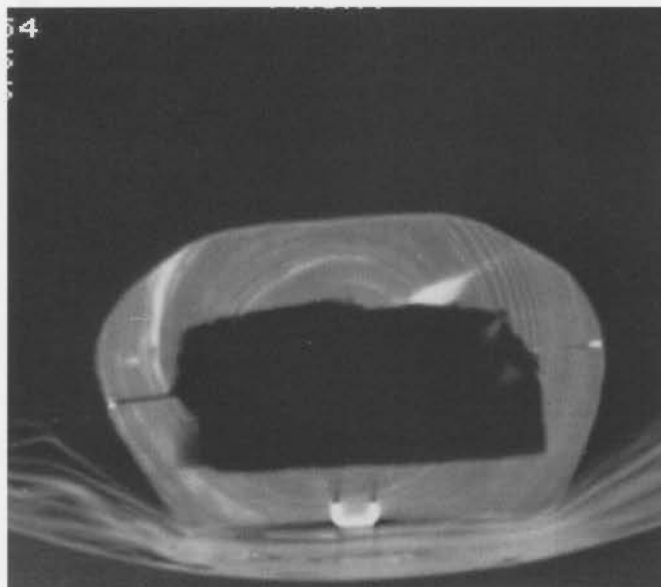


Figure 8: Transverse section through body of decoy. Note wood fiber pattern and presence of nail in anterior area of body. From Center for Medical Imaging Research (CMIR) Vanderbilt Medical School. Grant from Eastman Kodak Corporation.

surface of the nail when it was positioned.

Movement of the weights should be expected in an old working decoy as the floating characteristics of the carved wooden objects will change with time. Weights themselves may provide evidence to the authenticity of the decoys, but visual inspection by an expert does not require embellishment by a radiograph in this determination.

One should never regard radiography and visual inspection as competitive; they are always additive and



CT scan through mid level body of hollow decoy. The nails are no longer seen. Various layers of wood clearly shown.

complementary. The marvels of biomedical engineering, such as the digital capability for image processing (Figure 7), computed tomography (Figure 8), and magnetic resonance, have indeed revolutionized inquiry into health and disease. They also have some role in decoy evaluation, and, modest evaluation has been undertaken by us at Johns Hopkins and Vanderbilt University, as well as by others.

Certainly the ability to manipulate an image after exposure because it was captured in the digital format has the potential to dramatically enhance the findings due to rust or the pattern of the remaining lead-based paint. Will the MRI signal from old and new paint provide us with a discriminatory spectrum to accurately assess the age? These are questions for which we do not presently have sufficient experience to provide definitive data. However, we do know that simple radiographic techniques are invaluable in this regard.

Thus, at the sums required today to acquire a collectible decoy, collecting means making a substantial financial commitment. By the same token, these commercial implications will provide sufficient enticements for misrepresentations and fakes. The radiograph and examination by an expert may be necessary and is always prudent to determine whether or not your acquisition represents what you believe it does.

Additional Readings by the Author

Coulam, C., James, A.E., et al, *The Physical Basis of Medical Imaging*, Appleton-Century-Crofts, NY.

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Partain, L, and James, A. E., *Magnetic Resonance Imaging*, Curtis Publishing, Philadelphia 1980.

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DECOY MUSEUM SEEKS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is currently seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors are responsible for the governance of the institution. On behalf of the public, Directors formulate and review policy, develop future goals and plans, superintend the Museum's financial activities, and oversee all Museum operations. In addition, Directors are required to be members in good standing of the Museum, attend a majority of regularly scheduled Board meetings, chair one standing committee and serve on at least one other, participate in Museum special events and public programs, provide weekend volunteer services approximately six times per year, and participate in all fundraising campaigns. Directors serve three-year terms. In return, Directors enjoy a generous measure of public esteem, a sense of satisfaction, and the opportunity to work with other devoted and enthusiastic individuals in pursuit of a common goal — the continued success of the Decoy Museum.

Members interested in making a nomination should contact Ken Lay, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at (410) 939-3489 or Dr. John Carriere, President of the Board, at (410) 939-2922. Official nomination forms were mailed to all members in early July. Nominations must be received no later than September 1, 2000. Self-nominations are permitted. The election of new Directors will take place on the evening of Wednesday, October 18, 2000.

In Memory of

Arthur Donald Asher

On May 26, the Decoy Museum lost a good friend and staunch supporter when Arthur Donald Asher passed away at the age of 80. A lifelong resident of Havre de Grace, Mr. Asher was instrumental in founding the Decoy Museum. In 1981, he joined Mitch Shank and Allen Fair in proposing the creation of a museum on the banks of the Susquehanna Flats that would be a "permanent, educational display of decoys as this art form impacts upon the environment of the Chesapeake Bay region." He worked tirelessly with the team of original founders to secure the necessary location, funding, and public support to make this dream a reality. In the years following the opening of the Decoy Museum, Mr. Asher continued to support the institution through regular attendance at museum events.

Mr. Asher's commitment to public service was not limited to his involvement with the Decoy Museum. He served on the Havre de Grace City Council from 1965 to 1973. In addition, he was a life member of the Susquehanna Hose Fire Company and the Havre de Grace Elks Lodge 1564. He somehow found time to participate in these activities despite the fact that he operated his own retail paint store, Greenleaf Supply, with the help of his wife of fifty-four years, Betty.

The Decoy Museum's Board of Directors, staff, members, and friends will dearly miss Donald Asher's constant presence and unwavering support. His dedication and service to the museum will never be forgotten.

CARVERS AND VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATION DAY

by
Jennifer Jones

On Saturday, June 3, over seventy members, board members, staff, and friends of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum gathered on the Museum's grounds for Carvers and Volunteers Appreciation Day. The afternoon's guests of honor were the loyal volunteers, carvers, and sponsors whose support has been invaluable to the Museum over the past year. Each volunteer was presented with a certificate of appreciation and was treated to a catered "picnic" dinner of barbecued chicken, pit beef, Italian sausages, fruit, salads, and tasty desserts. The weather was perfect, and guests enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with each other in such a relaxing setting.

Following dinner, Event Chairman Fred Gillotte, Jr. presented the Carver of the Year and Volunteer of the Year awards. The 2000 Carver of the Year is Ken Clodfelter. An accomplished decorative carver, Mr. Clodfelter's affiliation with the Decoy Museum stretches back many years. From January through June of this year, he generously loaned twelve of his decorative songbird carvings and four decoys for a temporary exhibit in the Museum's foyer. Ken also regularly volunteers as a carving demonstrator in the Mitchell Shop on weekends. And, in early June, Ken branched out into a new arena — school tours. Responding to the Museum's need for volunteers who work with the public, Mr. Clodfelter adapted his carving demonstration for a presentation to a group of seventh grade students. Thank you, Ken, for your service over the past year!

For the first time, the Volunteer of the Year award was also presented during Carvers and Volunteers Appreciation Day. This year, the honor was bestowed upon Kenneth Lay, the Vice-President of the Museum's Board of Directors. Kenny admirably and responsibly performs the duties associated with his office, but he was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award because he does so much more! Rarely does a day pass when Ken does not find the time to stop by the Museum to check on operations and see if there is anything that he can do to help. It's not unusual to find Kenny up on a ladder, inside an exhibit case, replacing a light bulb. And even before being asked, he will make a run to the store to pick up supplies, order a printing job, or have a new plaque made. In addition, Kenny oversees the administration of the Museum's gift shop, a responsibility that consumes substantial time and effort. The Museum owes a large debt of gratitude to Mr.



Chairman Fred Gillotte presents the award for Carver of the Year to Ken Clodfelter.

Lay!

Thank you once again to all of our friends who donate their time and energy to the Decoy Museum! As a small, non-profit institution, we depend upon community support to be able to offer our programs and services. And as we continue to grow, we will need ever more help. Individuals interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities are encouraged to contact the Museum at (410) 939-3739.

2000 DECOY FESTIVAL RAFFLE WINNERS!

First Prize: High Head Canvasback Decoy
by Charles Bryan
High Head Canvasback Decoy
by Jim Pierce

Winner: Bob Farrington of Edgewood, MD

Second Prize: "Autumn Resting Place," framed
& remarked print by Rob Leslie
Winner: Jen Perry of Abingdon, MD

Third Prize: Havre de Grace Throw Blanket
Winner: Lenny & Vicky Ferguson of Havre
de Grace, MD

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Presents

Canvasbacks

You can become a part of an exciting new venture for the Decoy Museum! A group of "Havre de Grace style" carvers will be producing decoys in the Mitchell shop during the next few months. The decoys will feature the Museum's own brand, and they will be numbered. This year's bird will be a Canvasback drake. All proceeds will help support the Decoy Museum's ever-expanding exhibits and programming.

Twenty-five birds from this first edition will be sold at our Anniversary Dinner on November 4, 2000. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to become the proud owner of a

"Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Decoy!"

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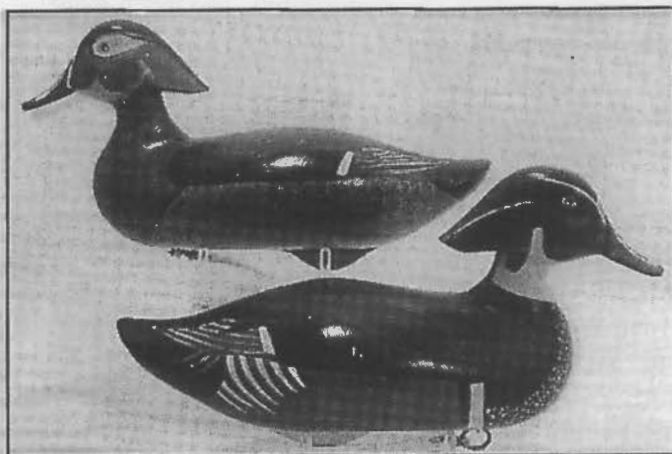
SPORTING COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY



VOLUME 11 NO. 12

RW PUBLISHING

DECEMBER, 1998



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

AD DEADLINE FOR JAN. '99 ISSUE IS DEC. 5th
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Museum News

Is Havre de Grace REALLY the "Decoy Capital of the World"?

On Sunday, June 11, twenty people assembled in the Decoy Museum's library to hear local historian Ellsworth B. Shank address Havre de Grace's right to the title of "Decoy Capital of the World." In his presentation, Mr. Shank compared Havre de Grace's contributions to the history of decoy making with those of other areas of the nation. Mr. Shank's lecture was largely based on a meticulous statistical analysis of the number of well-known carvers who have resided in each contending locality. Much to our delight, Havre de Grace ranked at the top of the list no matter how the numbers were interpreted. In addition, Mr. Shank discussed more qualitative requirements of any "Decoy Capital." A true "capital" must have a decoy making tradition that spans several decades, remains vibrant today, and involves many individuals and families. Also, it should have a museum dedicated to the art form, carving and waterfowling contests, auctions, and gunning club traditions. Havre de Grace, of course, meets each of these criteria. Despite the fact that Mr. Shank is R. Madison



Ellsworth B. Shank presents his statistical evidence to the audience. Photo by J. Jones.

Mitchell's son-in-law, his conclusions were objective, and he stopped short of definitively naming Havre de Grace the "Decoy Capital." The town faces staunch competition from areas in New Jersey, Louisiana, Illinois, Connecticut, and Ontario. But, as Ellsworth Shank clearly demonstrated, no one can deny that Havre de Grace, Maryland is one of the world's premier — if not the premier — hub of decoy production, history, and lore.

4th Annual Sporting Clays Shoot

On Sunday, July 30, the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum will hold its 4th Annual Sporting Clays Shoot. This year's event will be held at Alexander Sporting Farms in Golts on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The shoot will offer Lewis Class and Ladies Class Awards and will feature a Quail Flush and Five Stand. In addition, there will be a live auction and raffle. Last year's event drew over seventy entrants and 110 attendees from Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. To register for the shoot, please complete and mail the form found elsewhere in this issue. For more information, you may also call the Decoy Museum at (410) 939-3739 or Event Chairman David Walker at (410) 939-4310.

New Intern

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum welcomed intern Jennifer Hart to its staff in late May. Jennifer is an art major at the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore and is concentrating in pre-museum studies. She will be working with the curator to research carving history, perform a collections inventory, develop exhibits, and much more. Welcome, Jennifer!

Donations

The Decoy Museum has recently received generous gifts from a number of donors. Several gentlemen donated decoys for the 2000 Decoy Festival Auction. They include: Charles Joiner, Charlie Bryan, Gil Norton, Vernon Bryant, Walter Smith, Jay Freeman Wright, and Charles Prinz. We are grateful to David Walker, Ed Watts, Dr. John Carriere, Steve Lay, Patrick Vincenti, Charles Bryan, Allen Fair, Jim and Charlie Pierce, and Megan Gillotte for their donations of items for the Carvers and Volunteers Appreciation Day Auction. A donation in memory of Donald Asher has been made by Dr. and Mrs. William Brendle. Also, the Deer Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends has made a donation in memory of Fred Bennett. Thank you to all of our donors!

FROM THE COLLECTION

by Brenda Dorr Guldenzopf, Curator

Donations to the Collection

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum recently acquired several new additions to its permanent collections. Mr. Jay Freeman Wright of Aberdeen, Maryland has generously decided to give his eighteenth century Pomeroy flintlock shotgun, adapted for percussion, to the museum for its display in "Gunning the Flats." This object had previously been on loan from Mr. Wright. Dr. David and Cassandra Collins of Towson, Maryland have also eagerly given the museum a boat used for hunting on and around the Susquehanna Flats. This railbird skiff, formerly owned by Oliver Watson of Fallston, Maryland, dates to the turn of the twentieth century.

New Temporary Exhibits — July 15 through December 30, 2000

Master Carvers of the Atlantic Flyway

Fifteen of the finest decoy makers from New York through Virginia will be showcased in this exhibit. Many of these birds have been illustrated in William Veasey's book, *The Making of Hunting Decoys*. The work of carvers like Charlie "Speed" Joiner, Ned Mayne, Frank Muller, and Ralph Nocerino will be represented, and the decoys will range from gunning decoys to fine competition-grade hunting decoys. Come and see these masters' artwork, and learn how they created these decoys, whether for use in their own rigs, for competition, or for collection.

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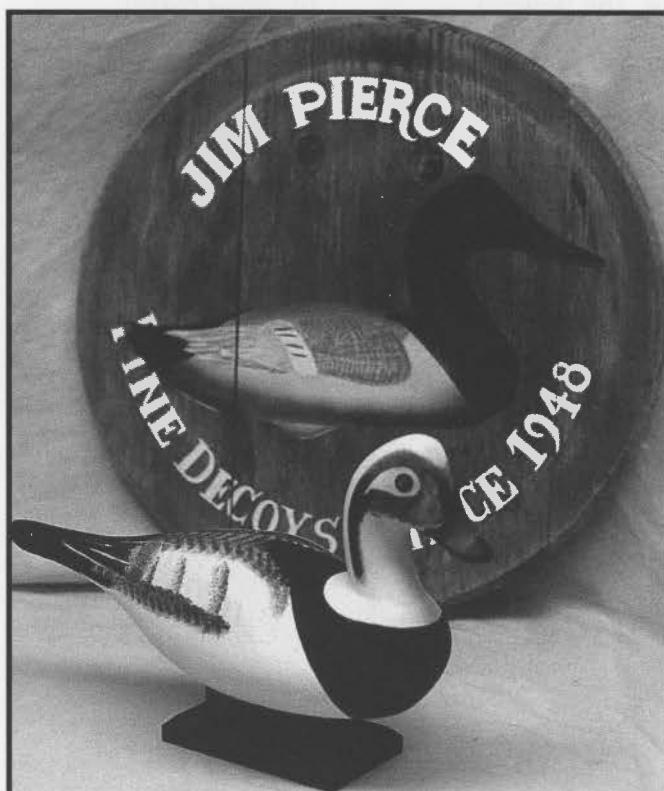
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The Decoys of John Clark, 2000 Duck Fair Honorary Chairman

Carver John Clark has been named as the Honorary Chairman of the 2000 Duck Fair. In honor of this achievement, the Decoy Museum will exhibit a selection of Clark's decoys in its main gallery. Clark, a Havre de Grace native, carves working-style decoys with ornamental heads and has been heavily influenced by the work of Patrick Vincenti. For more information on John Clark, please refer to the article on page 15 of this issue.

A "Darling" Idea — The History of the Federal Duck Stamp

Come to the Decoy Museum to discover why Jay N. Darling has come to be known as "the best friend ducks ever had." In 1934, Darling, along with other hunters and conservationists, created the Duck Stamp program as a means to generate money to protect the wildlife habitat upon which migratory waterfowl depend for their survival. On display will be a collection of the complete series of Federal Duck Stamps, beginning in 1935, together with a print of the original artwork used in one of those early stamps. This exhibit is made possible through the generosity of Dr. Harry Oleynick.



PIERCE'S DECOYS

Gunning Birds Since 1948
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2000 Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival CARVING COMPETITION WINNERS

The 2000 Atlantic Flyway Classic and Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival Carving Competitions were held on May 6 and 7. In all, 117 carvers entered more than 330 pieces in the contests! Thank you to all who competed, and congratulations to our award winners! The Decoy Museum extends a special thank you to George Williams and Bharat Parekh for generously donating their prize money back to the Museum!

DECORATIVE LIFESIZE FLOATING OPEN CLASS

Best of Show

- 1st Bharat Parekh
- 2nd Dale Heitkamp
- 3rd Dale Heitkamp

Best of Divers

- 1st Dale Heitkamp
- 2nd Jeff Moore
- 3rd Jeff Moore

Canvasback

- 1st Jeff Moore
- 2nd Jeff Moore

Merganser, Hooded

- 1st Dale Heitkamp

Redhead

- 1st Warren Saunders

Best of Marsh

- 1st Bharat Parekh
- 2nd Dale Heitkamp
- 3rd Ray Stansel

Gadwall

- 1st Carroll Nasuta

Pintail

- 1st Bharat Parekh
- 2nd Robert Moth

Shoveler

- 1st Ed Itter

Teal, Blue-wing

- 1st Ed Itter

Teal, Green-wing

- 1st Dale Heitkamp
- 2nd Ray Stansel

Widgeon, American

- 1st Mark Stewart

DECORATIVE LIFESIZE FLOATING INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Best of Show

- 1st Ralph Nester
- 2nd William Gore
- 3rd Ralph Nester

Best of Divers

- 1st Ralph Nester
- 2nd Walt Bram
- 3rd Walt Bram

Bufflehead

- 1st Ralph Nester

Canvasback

- 1st Ralph Nester
- 2nd Ralph Nester

Golden Eye

- 1st Walt Bram

Scaup

- 1st Walt Bram

Best of Marsh

- 1st William Gore
- 2nd William Gore
- 3rd Frank Dagostin

Black Duck

- 1st Dennis Soliday

Gadwall

- 1st Walt Bram

Mallard

- 1st Mike Eichollz

Pintail

- 1st William Gore
- 2nd Frank Dagostin

Shoveler

- 1st Robert Parkell

Teal, Green-wing

- 1st William Gore
- 2nd Frank Dagostin
- 3rd Robert Tarleton
- HM Robert Tarleton

Best of Goose & Confidence

- 1st Ralph Nester
- 2nd Charles Hutson

Canada

- 1st Charles Hutson

Swan

- 1st Ralph Nester

DECORATIVE LIFESIZE FLOATING NOVICE CLASS

Best of Show

- 1st Donald Pace
- 2nd Jack Williams
- 3rd Donald Pace

Best of Divers

- 1st Donald Pace
- 2nd Donald Pace
- 3rd Julia Mace



Bufflehead

1st Julia Mace

Canvasback

1st Larry Windon

2nd Larry Windon

Scaup

1st Donald Pace

2nd William Elliot

Merganser, Hooded

1st Donald Pace

Merganser, American

1st Walter Smith

Old Squaw

1st Larry Adell

Ring Neck

1st Walter Smith

Best of Marsh

1st Donald Pace

2nd Jack Williams

3rd Brad Sadler

Black Duck

1st William Thatcher

Mallard

1st Donald Pace

2nd Joe Dollard

3rd Sam Grasso

Teal, Green-wing

1st Jack Williams

Widgeon, American

1st Brad Sadler

Other, Marsh

1st Donald Pace

Best of Goose & Confidence

1st William Thatcher

Canada

1st William Thatcher

**DECORATIVE
LIFESIZE
NON-FLOATING
OPEN CLASS**

Best in Show

1st Jim Hazeleye

2nd Jim Hazeleye

3rd Ramon Herrmann

B1 Waterfowl

1st Margaret Kennedy

2nd John Day

3rd Linda Murphy

B5 Songbirds

1st Ken Clodfelter

2nd Ernest Mauldin

3rd Ken Clodfelter



B2 Shorebirds

1st Ramon Herrmann

2nd Brad Wiley

3rd William Elliott

B4 Birds of Prey

1st Brad Wiley

2nd Catherine Emory

B5 Songbirds

1st Jim Hazeleye

2nd Ramon Herrmann

3rd Richard Schepls

HM George Semple

HM Hank Garvey

HM Brad Wiley

B6 Seabirds

1st Jim Hazeleye

**DECORATIVE
LIFESIZE
NON-FLOATING
INTERMEDIATE
CLASS**

Best in Show

1st Ken Clodfelter

2nd Ernest Mauldin

3rd Ken Clodfelter

B1 Waterfowl

1st John Sewell

2nd Charles Hutson

3rd Ralph Nester

B2 Shorebirds

1st Pat McKinney

2nd Helen Callender

HM Dick Watkins
HM Ken Clodfelter
HM Edward Kearns
HM Helen Callender
HM John Henry

**DECORATIVE
LIFESIZE
NON-FLOATING
NOVICE
CLASS**

Best in Show

1st Charlie Glassman

2nd Robert Karcher

3rd Joe Dollard

B1 Waterfowl

1st Joe Dollard

2nd Joe Dollard

3rd George Buchness

HM Joe Furnary

HM Larry Window

HM Joe Roche

HM Sam Grasso

B3 Upland Game Birds

1st Samuel Wise

B4 Birds of Prey

1st Charles Glassman

2nd Robert Karcher

3rd Ted Litwin

HM Daniel Abbott

B5 Songbirds

1st Dick DeLottinville

2nd Robert Karcher

3rd Daniel Abbott

HM Daniel Abbott

HM John Stader

HM Robert Karcher

B6 Seabirds

1st Bill Payne

**DECORATIVE
MINIATURE
OPEN CLASS**

Best in Show

1st Jim Hazeleye

2nd Charlotte Dutton

3rd Richard Schepls

B1 Waterfowl

1st Charlotte Dutton

2nd Ramon Herrmann

B2 Shorebirds

1st Hank Garvey

B3 Upland Game Birds

1st George Semple

2nd Eddie Cheezum

B4 Birds of Prey

1st Richard Schepls

B5 Songbirds

1st Richard Schepls

2nd Richard Schepls

3rd Wayne Thayer

B6 Seabirds

1st Jim Hazeleye

**DECORATIVE
MINIATURE
INTERMEDIATE
CLASS**

Best in Show

1st Ken Clodfelter

2nd Helen Callender

3rd Ken Clodfelter

B1 Waterfowl

1st Edward Kearns

2nd Richard Belote

3rd Richard Belote

B2 Shorebirds

1st Ted Alderman

B3 Upland Game Birds

1st Donald Storey

B4 Birds of Prey

1st Ken Clodfelter

2nd Helen Callender

3rd Dick Watkins

B5 Songbirds

1st Ken Clodfelter
2nd Donald Storey
3rd Donald Storey

B6 Seabirds

1st Ted Alderman

DECORATIVE MINIATURE NOVICE CLASS

Best in Show

1st John Stader
2nd Samuel Wise
3rd John Thompson

B1 Waterfowl

1st John Thompson
2nd John Thompson

B2 Shorebirds

1st John Stader
2nd Paul Voorhees

B4 Birds of Prey

1st Sam Wise

WORKING

Best of Show

1st George Williams
2nd Mike Smyser
3rd Bob Barrow

Best of Divers

1st George Williams
2nd Allen Fry
3rd Pete Rogers

Bufflehead

1st Chuck Broomell
2nd Pete Rogers
3rd James Tolmie
HM Mike Smyser

Canvasback

1st Allen Fry
2nd Howard Gaines III
3rd Bill Kell
HM Ramsey Shradar

Golden Eye

1st Chuck Broomell
2nd Pete Rogers
3rd George Williams
HM George Williams

Merganser, Red-breasted

1st George Williams
2nd Sandy Allen

Merganser, Hooded

1st Ed McCormick
2nd Bill Kell
3rd Bill Kell
HM Gar Russell

Merganser, American

1st Richard Belote

Old Squaw

1st Charles Hutson
2nd Mary Larrimore
3rd Butch Larrimore
HM James Tolmie

Redhead

1st Pete Rogers
2nd Mike Smyser
3rd George Williams
HM George Williams



Ring Neck

1st Gar Russell
2nd Jeff Coats
3rd Bob Rebh

Ruddy

1st James Tolmie

Scaup

1st Mike Smyser
2nd Jeff Coats
3rd Gar Russell
HM Mike Smyser

Best of Marsh

1st George Williams
2nd George Williams
3rd Warren Saunders

Black Duck

1st Warren Saunders
2nd Howard Gaines III
3rd Jeff Coats
HM Jeff Coats

Mallard

1st Bill Kell
2nd Bill Kell
3rd Allen Fry
HM George Williams

Pintail

1st George Williams
2nd Mike Smyser
3rd Ray Henry
HM James Tolmie

Shoveler

1st Bob Barrow
2nd James Tolmie

Teal, Blue-wing

1st Butch Larrimore
2nd Wayne Thayer

Teal, Green-wing

1st Mike Smyser
2nd Mike Smyser
3rd George Williams
HM Mike Smyser

Scoter

1st Jeff Coats
2nd James Tolmie
3rd Jeff Coates

Wood Duck

1st Bill Kell
2nd Mike Smyser
3rd Pete Rogers
HM Bill Kell

Widgeon, American

1st Bob Barrow
2nd George Williams
3rd Bob Rebh

Eider

1st Mike Smyser
2nd Sandy Allen
3rd Howard Gaines III

Best of Goose & Confidence

1st Mike Smyser
2nd Ed McCormick
3rd Chuck Broomell

Canada

1st Bob Barrow
2nd Mike Smyser

Brant

1st Chuck Broomell
2nd Bill Kell
3rd Mike Smyser
HM Howard Gaines III

Other Geese

1st Ed McCormick
2nd Jeff Coats

Swan

1st Lester Orsburn

Coot

1st Mike Smyser
2nd Bob Rebh
3rd George Williams
HM Jeff Coats

DECORATIVE SLICK

Best of Show

1st Jeff Deach
2nd Mark Strohmman
3rd Caleb Marter

Best of Diver

1st Mark Strohmman
2nd Caleb Marter
3rd Caleb Marter

Bufflehead

1st Ted Litwin
2nd Charlotte

Dutton Canvasback

1st Charles Prinz
2nd Todd Gorman

Golden Eye

1st Caleb Marter
2nd Tim Bombardier
3rd Todd Gorman
HM Todd Gorman

Merganser, Red-breasted

1st Mark Strohmman
2nd Richard Belote

Old Squaw

1st Don Stevens

Redhead

1st Caleb Marter

Ruddy

1st Richard Belote

2nd Todd Gorman

Scaup

1st Richard Belote

Other, Diver

1st Caleb Marter

2nd Edgar Williams

Best of Marsh

1st Jeff Beach

2nd Charles Prinz

3rd Hank Garvey

Black Duck

1st Hank Garvey

Mallard

1st Sean Fisher

2nd Ed McCormick

Pintail

1st Jeff Beach

Shoveler

1st Charles Prinz

Teal, Green-wing

1st William Belote

2nd Richard Belote

Wood Duck

1st Ted Litwin

Best of Goose & Confidence

1st William Belote

2nd Glen Alexander

3rd William Belote

Canada

1st Ed McCormick

Brant

1st William Belote

2nd Ed McCormick

3rd John Henry

Other Geese

1st Glen Alexander

2nd Richard Belote

Swan

1st Charles Hutson

Grebe

1st William Belote

2nd Don Stevens

Other Confidence

1st Caleb Marter

COCKTAIL

1st Sally Schneider

2nd Robert Hess

3rd Robert Hess

GUNNING RIG

1st Mike Smyser

2nd Jeff Coats

3rd George Williams

HM Bill Kell

HM Tim Bombardier

HM Chuck Broomell

SHOREBIRD

1st Richard Belote

2nd Richard Belote

3rd Warren Saunders

HM Richard Belote

HM Richard Belote

HM Robert Hess

HM Michael Laird

FISH OPEN CLASS

1st Pat McKinney

FISH NOVICE CLASS

1st James Belote

YOUTH DIVISION**WORKING**

1st Robert Henry

2nd Dustin Otwell

3rd Keith Fung

HM John Underwood

HM Patrick McQuaid

YOUTH DIVISION**DECORATIVE****NON-FLOATING**

1st Carrie Dill

YOUTH DIVISION PLAQUE

1st Ariel Heath

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: *When Ducks Were Plenty* by Ed Muderlak. Duck shooting from Frank Forester's 1840s to William Hazelton's 1920s. 400+ pages, 115 old-time photos and etchings. Limited edition (500) slipcased \$65 post paid. Old Reliable Publishing, Box 4, Davis, IL 61019.

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.

FOR SALE: Chesapeake Bay Decoys -- many makers -- call Jim at (703) 768-7264 or potomacduck@aol.com

FOR SALE: 30 Mitchell Decoys auctioned at the First Annual Decoy Festival in 1982. Special Shertz print mounted 6' x 8'. \$20,000. (410) 939-4536.

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.

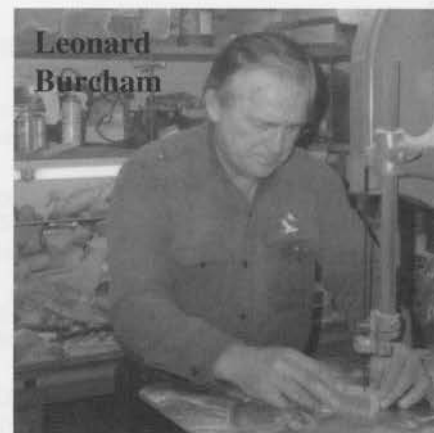
BUYING: Any decoys, including miniatures, pictures, photos, and memorabilia of Douglas Jester (1876-1961) of Chincoteague, Virginia. Call Fitz Godwin at (703) 528-9800 or write to 26C Auburn Ct., Alexandria, Virginia 22305. All is of interest for purchasing, especially pictures of Mr. Jester's carving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

WANTED: Daniel Baker III 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.

Weekend Carving Demonstrations

at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum



Sat., July 1 No Demonstrations
 Sun., July 2 OPEN
 Sat., July 8 Barb Wachter
 Sun., July 9 OPEN
 Sat., July 15 Carving Team to work on Decoy Museum Decoys
 Sun., July 16 Bill Meyers
 Sat., July 29 Carving Team to work on Decoy Museum Decoys
 Sun., July 30 Butch and Mary Carol Larrimore
 Sat., Aug. 5 Ken Clodfelter
 Sun., Aug. 6 John Ingoglia
 Sat., Aug. 12 Carving Team to work on Decoy Museum Decoys
 Sun., Aug. 13 Wayne Thayer
 Sat., Aug. 19 John Clark
 Sun., Aug. 20 John Clark
 Sat., Aug. 26 Joe Cook
 Sun., Aug. 27 OPEN
 Sat., Sept. 2 Leonard Burcham
 Sun., Sept. 3 John Ingoglia
 Sat., Sept. 9 Bill Streaker
 Sun., Sept. 10 Barb Wachter

Sat., Sept. 16 John Nickle
 Sun., Sept. 17 OPEN
 Sat., Sept. 23 Joe Cook
 Sun., Sept. 24 Bill Meyers
 Sat., Sept. 30 Ken Clodfelter
 Sun., Oct. 1 OPEN
 Sat., Oct. 7 Charlie Pierce
 Sun., Oct. 8 Butch and Mary Carol Larrimore
 Sat., Oct. 14 OPEN
 Sun., Oct. 15 Joe Cook
 Sat., Oct. 21 Mike Gleason
 Sun., Oct. 22 Paul Loder
 Sat., Oct. 28 Wayne Thayer
 Sun., Oct. 29 OPEN

Sat., Nov. 4 Ken Clodfelter
 Sun., Nov. 5 Bill Streaker
 Sat., Nov. 11 John Nickle
 Sun., Nov. 12 OPEN
 Sat., Nov. 18 Mike Gleason
 Sun., Nov. 19 OPEN
 Sat., Nov. 25 Butch and Mary Carol Larrimore
 Sun., Nov. 26 OPEN



Sat., Dec. 2 Leonard Burcham
 Sun., Dec. 3 OPEN
 Sat., Dec. 9 Bill Streaker
 Sun., Dec. 10 Joe Cook
 Sat., Dec. 16 Butch and Mary Carol Larrimore
 Sun., Dec. 17 OPEN
 Sat., Dec. 23 OPEN
 Sun., Dec. 24 OPEN
 Sat., Dec. 30 Mike Gleason
 Sun., Dec. 31 OPEN



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

CALENDAR

July

30

4th Annual Sporting Clays Event. Held at Alexander's Sporting Farms in Golts, Maryland. Quail Flush and Five Stand. Includes Lewis Class and Ladies Class Awards. Features prizes, a live auction, and a raffle. Registration fee: \$50.00 per 50 targets. For more information, please call the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum at (410) 939-3739 or Event Chairman David Walker at (410) 939-4310.

August

5

17th Annual Antique Hunting & Fishing Show & Sale. Held at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center, Arcadia Road, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Approximately 100 collectors & dealers will display and sell antique hunting & fishing licenses, shell boxes, old lures, plugs, reels, decoys, fishing rods, books, game posters, knives, guns, traps, pictures, patches & related hunting & fishing items. The public may bring items to sell or trade to dealers & collectors. 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Admission \$3.00 to view & buy. For more information, contact Ron Funk, 34 N. Vintage Road, Paradise, PA 17562 or (717) 442-4279 evenings.

September

9-10

13th Annual Duck Fair. Havre de Grace, Maryland. 60 wildfowl carvers and artists on exhibit, retriever demonstrations, children's decoy painting, live & silent auctions, head whittling contest, bake sale. Held at the Decoy Museum. Free admission. Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information, call (410) 939-3739.

16-17

Wildfowl Show at Middlecreek Wildlife Management Area, Kleinfeltersville, PA. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday: Carving Competition — Shorebirds, Gunning Decoys, 1:00 p.m. Retriever demonstrations, Pennsylvania State Goose Calling Championship, vendors, carvers, all related to waterfowl and collectibles, food, silent auction. Sunday: Retriever demonstrations, vendors, carvers, food, silent auction. 5000 acre gamelands and refuge for waterfowl. Free admission. For more information, call (717) 733-1512. Ask for Al or Jim. Closed Mondays — leave a message.

23-24

18th Annual Ocean County Decoy & Gunning Show. Held at the Tip Seaman Park, Pinelands Regional High School and Middle School,

Tuckerton, New Jersey. Sponsored by the Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation. 500 Exhibitors. Attendance 50,000. Music of the Pine Barrens, movies, demonstrations, and guest speakers. Contests throughout the weekend. Saturday and Sunday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Wells Mills County Park, 905 Wells Mills Road, Waretown, NJ 08758 or (609) 971-3085.

October

20-22

Carroll Carvers 10th Anniversary Show. Presented in conjunction with the Maryland Home and Garden Show and the Christmas Craft Show. Held at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Maryland. Friday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission \$6.00, allows access to all three events! For more information, please call Ron Clements at (301) 854-0067.

21

Chestertown Wildlife Exhibition & Sale. Historic Downtown Chestertown on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Over 50 carvers, painters, and other artisans. Live raptor exhibit, carving demonstrations, slide program, decoy identification, retriever demonstrations, music, food, and entertainment. Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Rain or shine. Admission \$5.00. Children under 12 free. For more information, call (410) 778-0416.

November

4

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Anniversary Dinner. Celebrate the evolution and growth of the Decoy Museum with members and friends at an evening of great food and merriment. Proceeds directly benefit the museum. Held at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace. 6:00 p.m. For more information, call (410) 939-3739.

10-12

30th Annual Easton Waterfowl Festival. Easton, Maryland. 400 of the nation's finest wildlife artists and craftsmen exhibit antique and contemporary decoys, paintings, photographs, carvings, sculptures, collectibles, handmade crafts, and more in 18 locations around this charming historic town. Features World Championship Goose and Regional Duck Calling Contest, Shooting Exhibitions, Seminars, Decoy Auction, Food, Music, Demonstrations, and Children's Activities. Free shuttle buses run to all locations. Friday & Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission: One-day \$10, Multi-day \$20. For more information, contact the Waterfowl Festival, P.O. Box 929, Easton, Maryland 21601 or (410) 822-4567. Or visit www.waterfowlfestival.org.

Duck Blind China

Bring America's proud heritage of decoy-making to your table. This elegant, yet sturdy, china is microwave and dishwasher safe.

Decoys are illustrated in intricate detail by well-known wildlife artist Laura DeNardo. Order now at special introductory prices. Call, write or fax for a free color brochure.

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