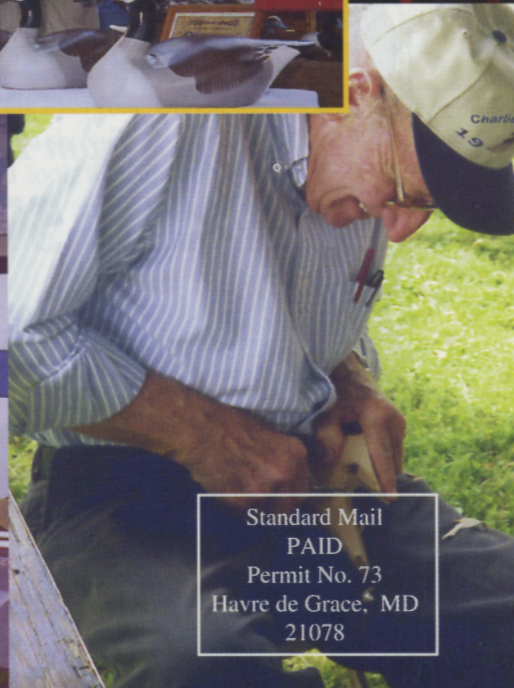
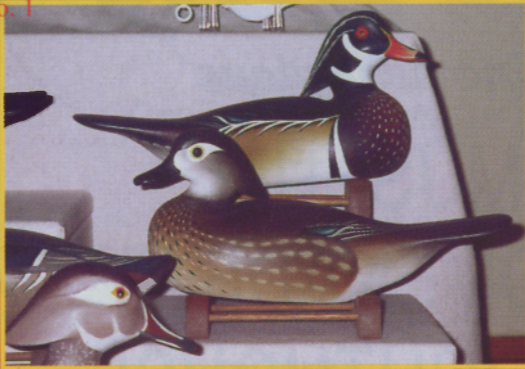


# The Canvasback

Winter 2002  
Vol. 11, No. 1

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

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# Havre de Grace Decoy Museum



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

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*By James L. Trimble*

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#### ON THE COVER

A year in review.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Members and Friends,

The New Year sun shines golden over the water on this mild winter morning. We came through last years building crisis, staffing crisis and national crisis standing strong and solid as ever. Sometimes, it is the difficult events that remind us of what is really important. The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is not any different from other organizations or even individuals in assessing it's self and it's future as 2002 begins.

With the generous support of our members, community and state we have managed to begin, to see, the "light at the end of the tunnel" of our financial stresses. The staff although still one short, is beginning to become a new team of four after spending the summer and fall seasons stretching the resources of themselves and the Board of Directors to keep operations running smoothly. I, as the newest member of the team look forward to a challenging and rewarding new year. As the museum's new Director I thank everyone who helped the institution through last years rough times and look forward to your continued support and interest in the museum and it's goals for 2002 and the future.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Pence

**Havre de Grace Decoy Museum  
Board of Directors  
2002**

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215 Giles Street  
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(410) 939-3739

*From  
the  
President*



Dear Museum Members,

Happy New Year! Now that the holidays have passed everyone at the museum is looking forward to the start of a full and challenging year.

As Dr. Carriere has already mentioned, the Museum's structural problems have been corrected. The Wood Duck raffle held through the fall, and drawn the evening of the Candlelight Tour, was very well received. The proceeds were applied to the stabilization project. I would like to thank all those individuals who helped to make this fundraiser a success. Now we continue with the task of securing the remaining funds necessary to complete payment for our building project.

The staff, board members, and volunteers are busy working on the 2002 Decoy Festival. We are very pleased to have the continuing support of our current exhibitors. An encouraging sign for our future is the higher level of interest shown by exhibitors new to our show.

Through the winter, the collections committee, Ms. Pence and the museum staff have been working to enhance current exhibits as well as create new ones. Please stop in and see what's new.

Our Museum is very unique in many ways. It is truly an asset to the city of Havre de Grace, Harford County, and the entire decoy community. The Museum lends itself well to the portrayal of the past, present, and future of a true American Folk Art. I am honored to serve as a President of its Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Vincenti".

Patrick Vincenti

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 decoys as this art form applies to the social and economic life of the upper Chesapeake Bay region.



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# Museum News

Text and photos by  
Kay D. Morrison

## Candlelight Tour and Carver Celebration

Eight hundred tickets were sold for this year's Candlelight Tour of Historic Havre de Grace, according to Madelyn Shank who has been in charge of the tour for many years. The Decoy Museum is a stop on the tour each year and many people visit here for the first time during the tour. We also offer free admission all day, thought the tour is from 4:00p.m. until 8:00p.m.

Museum members are offered a special 25% discount on Gift Shop purchases for the day and many take advantage of this to get a head start on their holiday shopping.

We invite area artists to display and sell their work on this special day, too. This year, Joe Cook, Leonard Baker, Michael Gleason, Jeanne Hiss, Janet Bodoff and Leo Heppner set up on the first floor. The visitors were able to speak at length with the carvers and artists as well as shop for unexpected treasures. It makes for a long day for the artists and we very much appreciate them adding so much to the tour.

Dr. William Brendle had come in earlier to put up the famous "Duck Head" tree and board members Madelyn Shank, Randy Haas, Andrew Speer, Ed Watts, and Ken Lay helped to decorate the museum. Jim McMillan brought in beautiful fresh holly from his yard which added so much to the decor, especially outside. A special thank you goes to Elly Coale for working the front desk and helping prepare and serve the carvers lunch. Ken Lay, Patrick Vincenti and John Ingoglia were on hand to greet the public and answer any questions about the museum.

The drawing for the Wood Duck Raffle was set for 8:00 p.m. and quite a few people were on hand for the drawing. We had a great response for this raffle, which was to raise much needed funds for the renovations we had to do on the building. Seven hundred seventy-five tickets were sold in all!

Richard K. Hartman of Wilmington, DE was the holder

*Patrick Vincenti and Debra Pence admiring Joe Cook's work.  
Photo by K. Morrison.*



of the first ticket drawn. He was absolutely delighted when he found out he had won the Mitchell pair! Richard drove down to claim his prize the next day. Jay Freeman Wright, of Aberdeen, MD won the birds by Mr. Charlie Joiner and presented them to his son at



*Richard K. Hartman. First Place winner, Wood Duck Raffle (Mitchell pair).*

Christmas. Vivian Karsnitz, of Manheim, PA was the lucky winner of the birds by Mr. Charlie Bryan. Edward Clay of Man-assas, VA won the Jim Pierce pair and Dave Walker of Havre de Grace won the birds by Capt. Harry Jobes. Thank you to everyone who supported the museum by buying a ticket for this raffle and congratulations to all of the winners.

## Ongoing Free Raffles

Last November, the Festival Committee decided to institute a free raffle to help us learn where our visitors were coming from, with the intent of using the zip codes as a guide for placing Festival advertising. Pierce's Decoys graciously donated a full -sized "antiqued" canvasback as the first raffle prize.

Each visitor, even those just here to visit the Gift Shop, was offered a ticket. People were thrilled at the chance to win something for free and on January 4, we had 384 tickets in the barrel. Although most of our visitors during this time period came from Harford County and Baltimore counties, we also had quite a few from California, Arkansas, Alabama, the Carolinas, and New England.

Mr. Luis Salazar from Laurel, Maryland was the lucky winner of the first raffle. He and his wife were celebrating their anniversary with a trip to Havre de Grace and had stopped by the museum as part of their weekend. He drove right up from Laurel when he was called and told he had won. Having the decoy will remind the Salazars of their anniversary trip for many years.

As planned, we began a new raffle right away. Steve Lay made and donated a half-sized Green-wing Teal for the next offering. This raffle will be drawn on March 11, 2002.

We would like to continue to be able to offer a free raffle every two months throughout the year. If any area carvers would like to donate a piece for this project, please call the museum. Thank you to Pierce's Decoys and Steve Lay for getting this effort off to such a nice start!



# Anniversary Dinner

## Review

Text and Photos by  
Kay Morrison

The Bayou Restaurant was the site for the 15th Annual Anniversary Dinner on November 3, 2001. For some, it is a chance to visit with friends they do not get to see nearly often enough.

Event chairman Ed Watts welcomed our guests and introduced Patrick Vincenti as the Honorary Chairman of next May's Festival. Mr. Vincenti then offered a special welcome to the past Honorary Chairmen in attendance. We very much appreciate Charlie Joiner, Charlie Bryan, Jim Pierce, Capt. Harry Jobs, Harry Shourds and Capt. Bill Collins honoring us with their presence.

The following board members were also recognized: Ken Lay, Ed Watts, William Pyle, Allen Fair, John Ingoglia, Bill Smart, Kevin Peel, Randy Haas, Doug Coats, Mert Street, Dr. John Carriere and Jim Pierce. Their attendance is also appreciated as is their continuing service to the museum.

After the invocation, which was delivered by former board member Walter Smith, everyone enjoyed the fine service and excellent food provided by Bayou owner Lou Ward and his staff.

Havre de Grace Mayor David Craig congratulated the museum on its recent renovations and also made some relevant comments on tourism in the area. After his remarks, our new Director, Debra Pence, was introduced and she told our guests about some of her hopes for the future of the museum and how much she is looking forward to making Havre de Grace her home.



*Mayor David Craig and Event Chairman Ed Watts at the dinner.*

As most of you are aware, a dedicated group of carvers is producing a limited edition decoy each year. Ed Watts presented a prototype of this year's redhead to the Director and plaques were given to all of the carvers who have worked to produce these unique decoys. Included in the group were: Capt. Bill Collins, Jim Pierce, Charles Pierce, Dave Walker, Capt. Harry Jobs, Capt. Bob Jobs, Charlie

Joiner, Charlie Bryan, Bryon Bodt, John Ingoglia, Joey Jobs and Pat Vincenti. The museum is very grateful for the many hours all of these gentlemen have donated in the past two years to make the birds.

The number one of this year's redheads was auctioned and brought a price of \$1500. The remaining of the first twenty-five were sold by lottery at a set price of \$250. Ten hens had been produced and were offered at \$300 each to those who bought the drakes. All of this year's redheads were painted by Mr. Charlie Bryan. The museum is most grateful to him for his time and talent. Only fifty drakes were made and the remaining birds are available in the museum Gift Shop.

Several individuals donated items for an auction. Thank you to Mike Dedekind, Jack Williams, Madelyn Shank, Harry Shourds, Jim & Charles Pierce and Mr. Charlie Joiner for their kind offerings.

Jeff Moore teaches a weekly carving class in the museum. Carvers are welcome to join the class at any skill level and they have a wonderful time each Monday. Several of the class members loaned us samples of their work to display at the dinner. Thank you to John Parsons, Helen Callender, Earl Dennis and Fred Crenshaw for sharing their very special pieces for the evening.

We also thank all ninety-five guests who attended the dinner for their continued support of the Decoy Museum and its fundraising events.



*Mary Lay and Janet Joiner enjoying a few moments together.*

# BOARD NEWS



Good Friend and Board Member John Ingoglia hard at work! John took to the road this fall, attending store openings and special events around the region to demonstrate decoy carving and promote the museum. The museum staff is appreciative of all the time John gives to the museum as an active board member and volunteer.

## HELLO AND WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER, RANDY HAAS

Randy Haas of Morgantown, PA was voted into the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Board of Directors during our October board meeting. Randy brings a blend of experience in the fields of construction, specializing in stone masonry, business skills, hunting and particularly knowledge about waterfowl and decoys. A museum member since 1992, Randy has already contributed to our work parties and our weekend front desk duty. We appreciate Randy's interest in the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and look forward to his help and advice in this new year.



*Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Bord of Directors 2002*

*Back Row, Left to Right: Andrew Speer, Patrick Vincenti, James Pierce, Douglas Coats, Ken Lay, Madelyn Shank, and John Ingoglia.*

*Front Row, Left to Right: Randy Haas, Dr. John Carriere, Jay Freeman Wright, Ed Watts, and Allen Fair. Photo by Leo Heppner.*



## Book Review

### Children's Books at The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

The Decoy Museum gift shop maintains a well rounded selection of children's books that make wonderful gifts and useful family references. Educational and entertaining, these books introduce young people and their families to the diverse history, culture, art and ecology of the Chesapeake Bay and Susquehanna River regions of Maryland. The collection of books on hand include a variety of activity, reference and story books. Among our favorite story books are the "Flock Tales from the Flats" series by Corinne M. Litzenberg of Elkton, MD.

Ms. Litzenberg has written three stories each

set in a different decade, illustrating various periods in the history of waterfowling in the upper Chesapeake region. Vocabulary, hunting customs and cultural heritage are explored in a fun and entertaining presentation. The text of each book is further enhanced by the delightful illustrations by David L. Stehman also originally from the region. I recommend these books for second and third grade readers, or as read aloud books for families to enjoy together.

On your next visit to the Decoy Museum be sure to check out "Flock Tales from the Flats" as well as our other children's story, reference, and coloring books. For more information contact our gift shop at 410/939-3739.



### Great gift ideas from the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Gift Shop

**NEW ITEM: BLACK FLEECE VEST** FEATURING AN EMBROIDERED WOOD DUCK, \$29.00. PERFECT FOR THOSE WINDY MARCH DAYS! DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH, MUSEUM MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE 25% OFF THIS ITEM!



**2001 MUSEUM DECOYS "REDHEADS" STILL AVAILABLE!** THE DECOYS ARE PAINTED AND ARE SIGNED BY CHARLES BRYAN. EACH DECOY DISPLAYS THE MUSEUM'S BRAND AND IS INDIVIDUALLY NUMBERED. DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A PROUD OWNER OF A "HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM DECOY"

*The family of  
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*invites you to attend the exhibit  
opening of "The Gibson Decoy  
Collection of Mr. Hitchens."*

*The opening and reception will  
be held in the Carvers Gallery of  
the Havre de Grace Decoy  
Museum on Sunday, April 7,  
2002 from 5:00 to 6:00p.m.*

*Please register by calling the museum at  
(410) 939-3739 by March 29, 2002*

# *Announcing the 9th Annual R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Dinner*



*Friday, March 8, 2002 at the Bayou Restaurant  
Route 40 Havre de Grace, Maryland*

*The evening will begin with cocktails at 6:00p.m. (cash bar)  
followed by dinner at 7:00p.m.*

*Mr. Larry Simms, President of the Maryland Waterman's  
Association, will be the guest speaker.*

*As part of our program we will be offering, by auction, the first pair of  
Blue winged Teals made by Charles "Speed" Joiner. These decoys, signed and  
dated 1990, were a gift to Mr. Mitchell from Mr. Joiner.*

*Also, there will be Joiner Bluebill decoys, Mitchell Canvasbacks and half-size Mitchell  
style Canada Geese. These will be available by lottery.*

*Your attendance will show support for the Endowment Fund, which exists solely  
to benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum through the purchase of artifacts,  
acquisitions and other appropriate projects.*

*Dinner tickets are \$30.00 each and are available at the Decoy Museum,  
Vincenti's Decoy Shop, from Endowment Board Members or by calling  
(Madelyn Shank at (410) 939-3947.)*



## R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Dinner Auction, Friday March 8, 2002



*Decoys to be offered at the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Dinner, March 8, 2002. Photo by D.L. Pence.*



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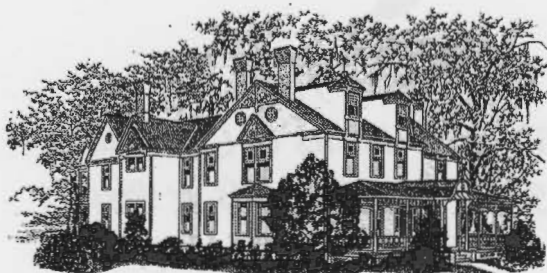
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# ANNUAL REPORT

**JANUARY 1, 2001 - DECEMBER 31, 2001**

## MISSION

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum exists to collect, document, preserve, and interpret waterfowl decoys as this art form applies to the heritage of the Chesapeake Bay. Within this context, the Museum will strive to study styles of decoys, seeking to understand the decoys' artistic and social values and to pass on this heritage to our future generations. The Museum will also educate, present, and document the influence that the surrounding environment, the Susquehanna Flats and the Chesapeake Bay, has had on decoy history.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY

**VISITATION: 17,809**

**GENERAL VISITATION: 11,679**

Adults:	4,038
Children 9-18:	444
Children 0-18:	454
Seniors:	1,376

Members:	820
Gift Shop Only:	1,923
Group Tours:	2,397
Other:	227

**SPECIAL EVENTS VISITATION/PARTICIPATION:**

Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival:	6,106
Carvers and Volunteers Appreciation Day:	3,700
Sporting Clays Shoot:	77
Duck Fair:	84
Anniversary Dinner:	1,350 (est.)
Candlelight Tour & Carvers Celebration:	95
	800 (est.)

**MEMBERSHIP: 1225**

Member Residence:

Maryland	— 817
Mid-Atlantic States	— 264
Other U.S. States & Foreign Nations	— 144

**VOLUNTEERS: 4,104 hours of donated service**

- \* 3 weekly admissions/gift shop volunteers
- \* 62 carving demonstrators
- \* 4 docents
- \* 132 special events volunteers

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### **BUILDING STABILIZATION**

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum went through the rigorous process of stabilizing its building and site. With the leadership of Board Members, Staff, and Volunteers, the museum maintained, and in some cases exceeded public service and operational expectations.



## **COLLECTIONS ACQUISITIONS**

- \* Canvasback Decoy (Donated by Allen Purner)
- \* Canvasback Decoy (Donated by A. Everette James)
- \* Pair of Canvasback Decoys (Donated by Dorothy Jaenicke)
- \* Decoy(s) (Donated by Roger Mengels)
- \* Decorative Birds (Donated by M. Trimble, Jr.)
- \* Paddles and Gun Cleaning Equipment (Donated by Robert Rich, III)
- \* Framed Photo (Donated by Allen Purner)
- \* Bill Collins Collection (Donated by Bill Collins)
- \* Gibson Decoys, 10 decoys (Donated by Karol Lynn Hitchens)
- \* Trout Decoy (Made by and Donated by David Perkins)
- \* Copper and Brass, "Peace" Powder Flask (Donated by J. Freeman Wright)
- \* Newspaper "Blue plates" about Madison Mitchell (Donated by Allen Fair)
- \* Redhead Decoy Prototype for museum by Charlie Joiner (Donated by Havre de Grace Carvers and Charlie Joiner)

## **PERMANENT EXHIBITS**

- \* R. Madison Mitchell Exhibit in the "Honoring the Masters Gallery"
- \* Three new exhibit cases were built and installed in the "Honoring the Masters Gallery"

## **TEMPORARY EXHIBITS**

- \* Charles Nelson Bernard Decoys "Decoys of Dignity" (April to December)
- \* Antique Decoys of the Upper Bay (April to June)
- \* Wood Ducks A Comparison of Contemporary Carvers (September to December)
- \* 2001 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Poster Contest Exhibit (September)

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

- \* Decoy Identification Day (January 13, 2001)  
Visitors brought in decoys for identification and analysis by decoy experts Henry Fleckenstein Jr, Jon Frank and C. John Sullivan.
- \* African-American Contributions to the Art of Decoy Carving (February 10, 2001)  
Historian Vincent O. Leggett, President of the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation Inc., presented a lecture and discussion with decoy carver Douglas Gibson
- \* R. Madison Mitchell: His Life and Decoys (March 30, 2001)  
Historian Chuck Robbins gave an informational lecture for the formal opening of the R. Madison Mitchell exhibit.
- \* "Flock Tales from the Flats" (May 6, 2001)  
A Special presentation by author, Corinne Litzenberg, for children and adults. Puppets, slides, and questions about writing, decoys and Chesapeake Bay history.
- \* "Scales and Tails" (September 8, 2001)  
This program was presented by Rob Dyke of the MD State Forest and Park Service division of the MD Department of Natural Resources as an introduction to safe management and observation of wildlife.
- \* Retriever Demonstrations (September 9, 2001)  
Trainers and their dogs demonstrated the techniques used to communicate the variety of commands used by the team while hunting.

## **Carving Classes and Other Hands-on Activities**

- \* 15 individuals participated in weekly adult carving classes that provided an opportunity for carvers to hone their skills under the guidance of award-winning carver Jeff Moore.
- \* 12 youngsters participated in a six-week session of summer youth carving classes taught by Jeff Moore.
- \* 60 high school students participated in the 2001 Decoy and Wildlife Festival Poster Contest.
- \* 200 visitors interacted with the MD Jr. Duck Stamp Exhibit activities and educational video.
- \* 26 students participated in the Decoy Painting Workshop.

### **Docent-Led Programs**

- \* 878 adults and seniors participated in group tours
- \* 1519 school children participated in programs consisting of group tours, carving demonstrations, craft projects, and video presentations

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

- \* Celebration of R. Madison Mitchell's 100th Birthday
- \* 20th Annual Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival
- \* 10th Annual Volunteers & Carvers Appreciation Day
- \* 5th Annual Sporting Clays Event
- \* 14th Annual Duck Fair
- \* 15th Anniversary Dinner
- \* Candlelight Tour and Sale and Carver Celebration

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

### **TOTAL ASSETS: \$1,191,096.06**

Includes cash, investments, inventory, land and leasehold improvements, furniture and equipment, accumulated depreciation, and the value of the museum collection.

### **TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL: \$1,191,096.06**

#### **TOTAL LIABILITIES: \$108,254.60**

Includes line of credit, accrued expenses, and sales tax payable.

#### **TOTAL CAPITAL: \$1,082,841.46**

Includes unrestricted net assets, restricted net assets, and net income.

### **2001 REVENUES: \$361,585.00**

Gift Shop Sales	\$59,737.70	Corporate Sponsors	\$10,026.00
Decoy Festival	54,610.04	Private Donations	21,346.19
Grants	53,381.00	The Canvasback	6,769.80
General Admissions	23,557.50	Other Income	1,220.94
Memberships	18,066.00	Educational Programs	9,402.80
Other Events	43,642.03	Restricted Donations	40,000.00
Raffles	19,825.00		

### **2001 EXPENSES: \$291,806.87**

Administration	\$117,594.47	Collections	\$19,814.35
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Mr. Claude W. Todd was a Charter Member of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Mr. Todd is remembered by many museum members and friends as a hunter, collector, Festival exhibitor and dedicated contributor to both the Museum and the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment.



## *WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF CAROL SUE KRAMER*

Carol Sue Kramer is remembered as a "loving, caring and generous person." Mrs. Kramer with her husband Dr. Morton D. Kramer, avid collectors of decoys themselves, have been generous donors of decoys, and a wide range of artifacts supporting the "Ward Brothers" and other museum exhibits. Over a period of many years Dr. and Mrs. Kramer have been valuable advisors to the museum board and staff. We will most certainly miss Mrs. Kramer's enthusiastic and genuine interest and concern for our institution and all of our staff and board members.

# Richard Lloyd Tilghman

Talbot County  
farmer, sportsman  
and decoy maker

by James L. Trimble

*Richard Tilghman stands in his sinkbox on Goose Creek off the Miles River in Talbot County, Maryland, ca. 1918. Photo courtesy Seth Jewell.*

Gross Coate, a 1658 land grant located on the eastern shore of the Wye River, eight miles northwest of Easton, Maryland, was acquired by the Tilghman family in the early 1700s. A large three story brick mansion with substantial out-buildings - a carriage house, stables, servants' quarters, etc. - was built by the family in the mid-18th century.

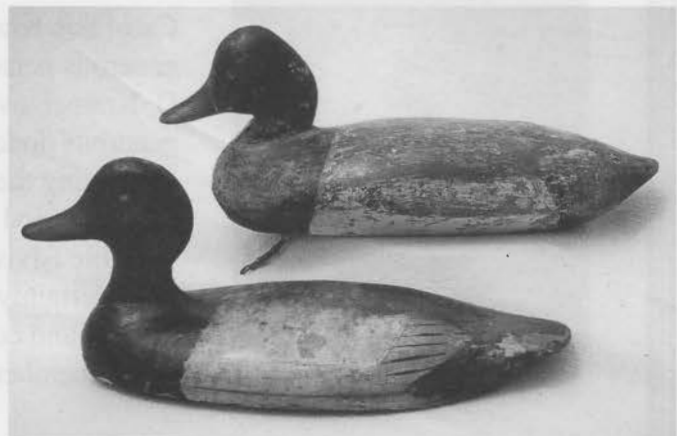
A tobacco economy supported Gross Coate and other Talbot County manor homes. But this tidewater economy

lost a fortune with the emancipation of slavery; this coupled with a decline in world grain prices, turned this enchanting Eastern Shore region, with its stunning land and water views, into a depressed area with an abundance of decaying estates. These once-proud manors were marketed in the 1880s. to the affluent of Philadelphia, Wilmington, and New York as bargain getaways.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, Talbot County, with its numerous islands, necks and peninsulas along the Chesapeake Bay, as well as the Wye, Miles,



*Two styles of Tilghman canvasbacks, both in original paint. The top bird is hollow, held together with little brass nails. Both have inletted lead weights, initialed R.T. Seth Jewell collection.*



*Two styles of Tilghman's bluebills, both drakes. Set Jewell collection.*





*Bluebill pair with erect posture and exaggerated paddle tails. Originally carved as canvasbacks, they were painted as bluebills due to their heavy concentration on the river that year. Seth Jewell collection.*

Choptank, and Tred Avon Rivers, was known for some of the best duck shooting in the country. This economically depressed but historically rich area was a sportsman's delight. The wealthy who purchased here had the money to pursue the sport of sailing, fishing and waterfowl hunting. Talbot County was put on the "blue chip" map around 1912 when rich millionaire sportsmen like Sidney Schuler, Coleman DuPont and J. Ramsey Speer purchased land there.

Richard Lloyd Tilghman, the son of a Johns Hopkins University doctor, was born in Baltimore in 1887. The Tilghmans had eight children, Richard being the oldest of five boys. The family spent the summers plus some weekends at Gross Coate. The manor home was without running water or electricity and had a wood burning stove plus living and bedroom fireplaces to provide heat. The Tilghman children were educated in Baltimore parochial schools. Richard continued his education for a short period of time at Johns Hopkins University. When the farm operation became too much for Dr. Tilghman's widowed mother to handle, he gave up his medical practice to become an Eastern Shore (gentleman) farmer.



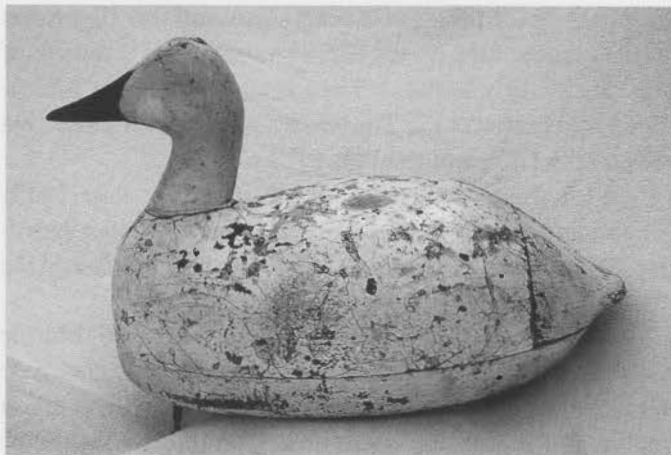
*Canada goose with rounded paddle tail and simplistic paint patterns. Seth Jewell collection.*



*Pair of Tilghman golden eyes with an iron sinkbox decoy in the foreground. Seth Jewell collection.*

The Tilghman property fronted on the Wye River. Elizabeth Carroll, a niece, recalled that Uncle Dick and his brothers loved the fall season and the noisy arrival of the ducks. Hunting was a family affair and sometimes included the Johnson boys, Graham and Lowndes, who lived along the shores of the Miles River, some eight miles south of Gross Coate. The Johnsons, confirmed bachelors who designed and built Chesapeake Bay sailing boats, were related to the Tilghman family. Elizabeth remembered the camaraderie between these three in their sailing adventures and their quest for killing ducks.

Elizabeth's recollections are corroborated in a diary that Lowndes kept. Many of the hunting trips were aboard a cabined sailboat and referred to as "ducking cruises." A December 3-6, 1911 cruise describes Lowndes and Dick, along with a Charles (believed to be Richard's brother), sailing Tilghman's boat Naomi around Gross Coate. "Got the box and started down Shaw Bay," the diary reports. Over the three day period, the sinkbox was moved numerous times - to Shaw Bay, Dividing Cove, Bluffs Island Narrows, Presq'le, Ice Pond Cove, Three Sisters Point,



*Cork swan, designed to be a canvasback, became an oversized confidence decoy in the rig. Seth Jewell collection.*



*Richard Tilghman's sinkbox shooting exploits were publicized in Harry Walsh's book "Outlaw Gunner." Tilghman (L) and Graham Johnson aboard their hunting yacht in two pictures and Tilghman working the sinkbox in the third. Photos courtesy Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.*

and Persimmon - all on the Wye. Each move was documented as to wind, weather and barometric conditions, as well as time of day that they "took up." Numerous kills of whiffs (golden eyes) and black heads (bluebills) were reported, some with baited notations. Entries also tell of the oysters Tilghman dug and the partridges that were prepared on board for dinner.

Lowndes diary also tells of Richard Tilghman purchasing the *Ojigwam*, a 33'3" sailing yacht built in 1905. The Johnsons refurbished and serviced the boat with numerous entries referring to the "Jig." Spars and sails as well as copper paint on the bottom of the tender, one entry reads. A further comment notes Tilghman sailing the "Jig" on one of his trips to Baltimore. In another, the diary critiques a race between the Johnsons and the Tilghmans to the mouth of the river (Tilghman lost), and is critical of the "Jig's" dirty bottom. The Lloyds Register of American Yachts reflects the Tilghman's purchase in 1912. He owned the *Ojigwam* through 1919.

With the outbreak of the World War I in 1917, Tilghman enlisted in the U.S. Navy. His younger brothers, Charles and DeCoursey, joined the U.S. Army and the French Ambulance Corp.

After the war, Tilghman worked for the Cardiff Marble Company, located about 25 miles northwest of Havre de Grace in Harford County, Maryland. Dark brilliant green marble was mined by Welsh immigrant miners for use as decorative trim in east coast banks and federal and commercial buildings. The 1920 census reflects Richard

Lloyd Tilghman, age 32 and single, as the treasurer of this company. While in Cardiff, Tilghman lived a few short miles from the Susquehanna River. One must assume that this hunter found his way to the river's shoreline and to the shorelines of the Susquehanna Flats just 25 miles to the south.

In 1925, at the age of 38, Tilghman returned to the family's Talbot County home. Richard's older sister now ran the farm operation with the help of an overseer. The Eastern Shore poultry industry was in its infancy and other area farms were slowly moving from wheat to corn as the cash crop. Richard began a poultry operation at Gross Coate, raising turkeys. He was one of the early breeders of broad-breasted birds. Elizabeth tells that her uncle's large flocks were considered among the best in the state and commanded high prices in city markets. He also took an interest in the Talbot County Poultry Association and won many prizes each year. He offered a silver trophy to the Association for best turkeys.

Tilghman was a great sportsman who owned as assortment of boats. He fished the Miles and Wye Rivers and Eastern Bay. He often trolled for rock and blue fish with his friend Earl Spencer, who owned a World War I motorized lifeboat that the Johnsons had converted to pleasure use. He crabbed and also dug for clams and oysters. His bounty was always a welcome addition to the family dining table.

The friendship with the Johnson boys continued, as did the pursuit of ducks, and now geese, that appeared in

the late 1920s, as a result of the corn crops. The Johnsons and Tilghmans hunted the Wye and Miles as well as Eastern Bay. There were sleeping quarters on the Johnson's double-masted yawl, *Anna*, for overnight gunning trips to Poplar Island and further south to Bloodsworth Island. Two bateaus were towed, one carrying a small one-man sinkbox. Upon arriving at the hunting area, the sinkbox was placed in the water. The canvas wings, to reduce wave action, were unfolded, and iron decoys were placed on the decking. While this was done, the wooden decoys were used to place the decoys plus service the box. Their sinkbox hunting exploits were memorialized in Harry Walsh's *"The Outlaw Gunner."* Tilghman is pictured in the accompanying photos holding his 12-gauge double-barrel McComus shotgun. McComus was a Baltimore maker of fine waterfowling guns that were considered affordable only by the wealthy.

Ed Parsons (1856-1937), an Oxford Maryland ships chandler, was Talbot County's only commercial decoy maker during Tilghman's life. Area gunning rigs were primarily filled with canvasback decoys, some Parsons, but most were made in the upper Chesapeake Bay.

Tilghman's decoys, both wooden and iron, show up in small numbers, as he primarily carved for himself, and maybe a few neighbors. The wooden stools were made in a second floor shop of one of the outbuildings that stored farm machinery. Known species of his decoys include canvasbacks, bluebills, golden eyes, and Canada geese.

These hollow, well-carved decoys have a partially rounded bottom board with an inletted rectangular pad weight. The head is alert with a rounded cheek carved to the inside of the bill. Paint application is basic and follows Upper Bay paint patterns. Close examination will reveal two distinctive styles. One is best described as thicker, and in all probability was made before Tilghman

moved to Cardiff at the north end of the Chesapeake Bay. The second style is better rounded, more sleek in appearance, and has a padded tail similar to some of the decoys produced on the Susquehanna Flats.

The wing ducks that Tilghman made were cast iron, each weighing about 30 pounds. Like wooden decoys, two slightly different styles are represented in the castings. Many of these early wing ducks were repainted and used as canvasback decoys. Tilghman also made a few cork decoys. They are finished with a 1/2 inch pine bottom board. The tail is also carved out of pine. Known species include canvasbacks, bluebills, black ducks, and Canada geese.

The sinkbox was outlawed in Maryland in 1935, two years before Tilghman died. The principle quarry for sinkbox shooting was canvasbacks and redheads with bluebills a distant third. Yet Tilghman's only known iron wing ducks were golden eyes. But it was also unusual for a farmer who was not really a commercial producer of decoys to make his own castings. Either Talbot County's waters were full of these divers (the sport of the hunt), or simply the hunt in the sport (a wary and fast bird that's hard to knock down).

And of course Tilghman, with his retriever Nancy, hunted along the shores of the Wye at Gross Coate. Sometimes he used live Canada geese callers with clipped wings. On December 14, 1937 Richard Tilghman failed to return home after a morning of hunting. His brother Donnel found him dead of a heart attack in the field not far from his home. His obituary read "he dropped in his tracks while out ducking on Gross Coate."

(Jim Trimble, a regular contributing writer for *Decoy Magazine*, combines his love of history with his interest in Chesapeake Bay area decoys, through the numerous waterfowl related articles he has written. His stories and columns have also been published in a variety of periodicals including *The Canvasback magazine*. If you have source data on an early Chesapeake Bay area carver, Jim would love to hear from you. He can be reached at 703-768-7624 or at [potomacduck@aol.com](mailto:potomacduck@aol.com).



(Above) Two stylish cork blackducks with wooden heads and bottom boards, and (right) cork-bodied Canada goose with a pine bottom board, also made with a body designed for an oversized canvasback. Seth Jewell collection.



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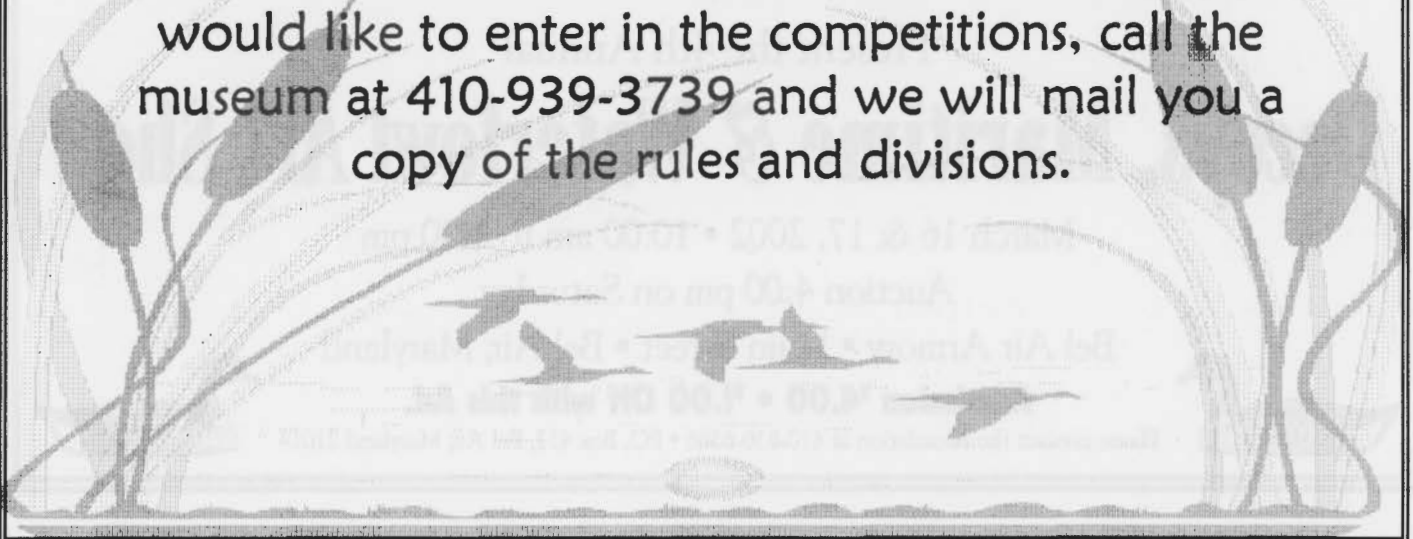
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Join the carvers from many states as they compete in the Carving Competitions during the Festival, May 3, 4 & 5, 2002. If you have works that you would like to enter in the competitions, call the museum at 410-939-3739 and we will mail you a copy of the rules and divisions.



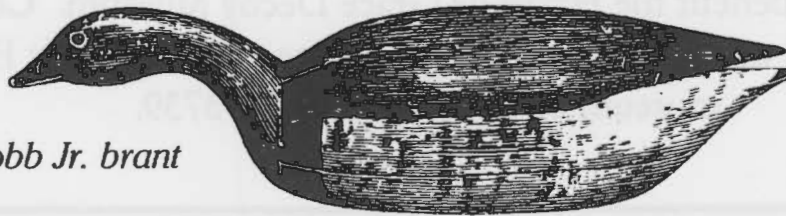
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## THE GREATER BEL AIR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.



Present the 4th Annual

## Decoys, Maritime & Waterfowl Art Show

March 16 & 17, 2002 • 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Auction 4:00 pm on Saturday

Bel Air Armory • Main Street • Bel Air, Maryland

**Admission \$4.00 • \$1.00 Off with this Ad.**

Please contact the Foundation at 410-836-6366 • P.O. Box 412, Bel Air, Maryland 21014

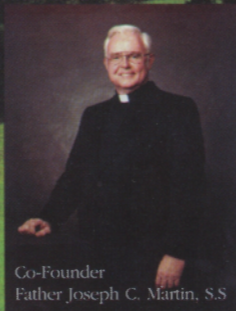






# **FATHER MARTIN'S ASHLEY**

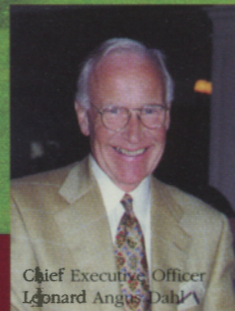
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# CALENDAR

## March

8

### **R. Madison Mitchell Dinner**

Support the art of decoy carving by attending the major fund raising event for the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment. Although not formally related to the Decoy Museum, the Endowment generously provides resources for the acquisition of decoys for the museum's collection. Held at the Bayou Restaurant, Havre de Grace, MD. 6:00-10:00 pm. For more information call the museum at 410/939-3739

### **January through May**

#### **The Ward Foundation Education Series**

Call the Ward Foundation for a complete listing of this winter and springs class and workshop offerings. Call Salisbury University Education Department at 410/ 742-4988 ext. 110.

16 & 17

### **Decoys, Maritime & Waterfowl Art Show**

Held at the Bel Air Armory on Main Street in Bel Air ,MD 10:00 am to 4:00 pm For more information please contact the Greater Bel Air Community Foundation, Inc. at 410/836-6366.

23

### **New Jersey Decoy Collectors Association Decoy Show and Sale**

Held at Manahawkin Elks Club, 520 Hilliard Boulevard, Manahawkin , NJ 9:00 am to 4:00 pm For more information about competitions and directions call Clarence Fennimore at 609/758-7272.

## April

5 and 6

### **East Coast Decoy Collectors Association Buy, Sell and Swap**

Annual Meeting and Cookout April 6, at 6 pm @Maritime Museum

Held at St. Michaels Motor Inn (Best Western) 1228 Talbot Street, St. Michaels, MD. See ad in this *Canvasback* for more information.

7

### **Exhibit Opening and Reception**

The Family of John W. "Bill" Hitchens, Jr. invites the public to

## April

attend the exhibit opening of "The Gibson Decoy Collection of Mr. Hitchens". The opening and reception will be held in the Carvers Gallery of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please call the museum by Friday March 29, 2002 to be included in the guest list.

26-28

### **The 32nd Annual Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Competition**

Held at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City, MD. For more information about competitions, exhibits and educational seminars please contact The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art at 410/742-4988.

## May

3, 4, and 5

### **The 21st Annual Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival**

Visit this Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Festival to enjoy the works of 200 carvers and artists on exhibit. Decoy and fish carving competitions, retriever demonstrations, live and silent auctions. Held at the museum and Havre de Grace Middle and High Schools. Hours: Friday 6:00 to 9:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission: \$5.00 per day or \$8.00 for the weekend. Please call the museum at 410/939-3739 for more information.

## June

12

### **"Grasses of the Chesapeake Bay" by DNR Specialist Julie Bortz**

Held at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Learn all about the grasses of the Chesapeake Bay. Native and introduced species will be discussed along with the environmental impact and wildlife habitat changes through the years. Julie hopes to bring some samples so we may learn to identify the plants and if the sun and weather cooperate we may go outdoors and see what we can find near the boardwalk! Join us this Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm. Call for more information or just to let us know you are coming. 410/939-3739



# Weekend Carving Demonstrations

## at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

Sat. Feb. 2 Frank Muller  
 Sun. Feb. 3 OPEN  
 Sat. Feb. 9 Joe Cook  
 Sun. Feb. 10 Bob Jobes  
 Sat. Feb. 16 Dave Walker  
 Sun. Feb. 17 Bob Hess  
 Sat. Feb. 23 Mike Gleason  
 Sun. Feb. 24 Bryon Bodt

Sat. Mar. 2 Joe Cook  
 Sun. Mar. 3 Frank Muller  
 Sat. Mar. 9 Jeanne Hiss  
 Sun. Mar. 10 John Ingoglia  
 Sat. Mar. 16 Butch & Mary  
 Carol Larrimore

Sun. Mar. 17 Bryon Bodt  
 Sat. Mar. 23 Joe Cook  
 Sun. Mar. 24 Bill Collins  
 Sat. Mar. 30 Mike Gleason  
 Sun. Mar. 31 Easter (closed)

Sat. April 6 Bob Hess  
 Sun. April 7 Mike Gleason  
 Sat. April 13 Jeanne Hiss  
 Sun. April 14 Frank Muller  
 Sat. April 20 Joe Cook  
 Sun. April 21 Mike Affleck  
 Sat. April 27 Butch & Mary  
 Carol Larrimore  
 Sun. April 28 OPEN

Sat. May 4 FESTIVAL  
 Sun. May 5 FESTIVAL  
 Sat. May 11 OPEN  
 Sun. May 12 Frank Muller  
 Sat. May 18 John Ingoglia  
 Sun. May 19 Mike Affleck  
 Sat. May 25 OPEN  
 Sun. May 26 OPEN

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

## 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:** Paul Gibson's complete Decoy Collection (eleven pairs plus the swan and goose) with a framed and signed print of the collection. All pieces signed. All in mint condition. Telephone (703) 524-8298 and/or e-mail aberdeene1@aol.com

**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. Trade edition \$40 post paid. Old Reliable Publishing, Box 4, Davis, IL 61019.

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

**WANTED:** The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum seeks donations or long-term loans of decoys from the Pacific, Central, and Mississippi Flyways for our new exhibits. Call (410) 939-3739.

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

**WANTED:** Waterfowl Concepts Book One. Please Contact Keith Mueller @ 410/939-8455

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