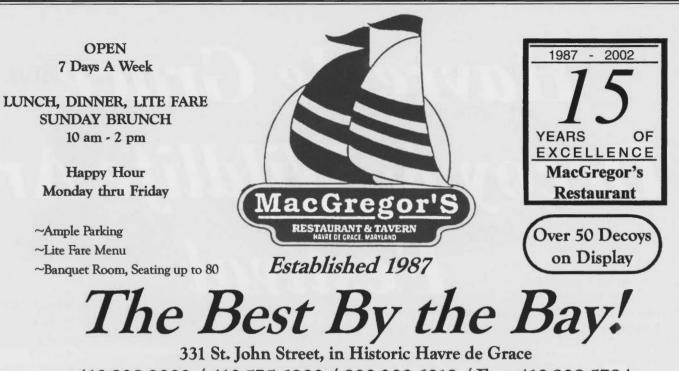
Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

Spring 2002 Vol. 11. No. 2 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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ON THE COVER Photo of Patrick Vincenti. Photo by Leo Heppner and W. Ben Bunger, III.



Dear Members and Good Friends,

We have been quite busy at the museum. Everyone has been involved with cleaning, sprucing-up and generally preparing for an active spring season. We got off to a great start in January when Tom Shively spent two days working on the "Flyways" mural and repainting our entry sign on Giles street.

One thing led to another and we've had Americorps students here to paint some gallery walls, board members to help spruce up exhibits, festival signs and repair light fixtures, while the staff took on the rigors of pulling together many of our spring activities. Did we mention hanging the stairway and library artwork and membership plaques? Ken Lay is currently working on six new stained glass window panels for the Mitchell case upstairs. If you would like to sponsor one of these beautiful pieces of art for the museum be sure to call Kenny soon!

We are looking forward to seeing you at this years Festival and hope we have some pleasant surprises for you with our most recent spring cleaning spree! I thank all of you for your on going and generous support of the museum.

Very Sincerely,

Debra L. Pence



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From the President



Dear Museum Member,

Once again the Festival is upon us. We would like to thank the Staff, Volunteers, Sponsors and Exhibitors for making this year's Festival a success. Also I applaud all the efforts by the Festival Committee in addressing concerns and insuring that our show remains one of the East Coast's Finest.

We have elected two new Directors to the Museum's Board. Laura DeNardo, who has served on the board before, will be involved with Public Relations and Marketing. William Acker will Chair the Long Range Planning and Development Committee. Both members will be strong assets to the Board and will focus on Growth and the Future of our Museum.

On behalf of the Staff and Directors, I would like to thank the members of the Mitchell Trust for their generous donations. The mission of the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust is to support the Museum with acquiring Artifacts and to sponsor Educational Programs. The Endowment has evolved to be much more. Over the past nine years they have provided us with the same enthusiasm and energy that Mr. Mitchell brought to the Museum everyday. He would be very proud of the contributions to date, but I can hear him saying "Make the next one better than the last".

Sincerely,

Inicat

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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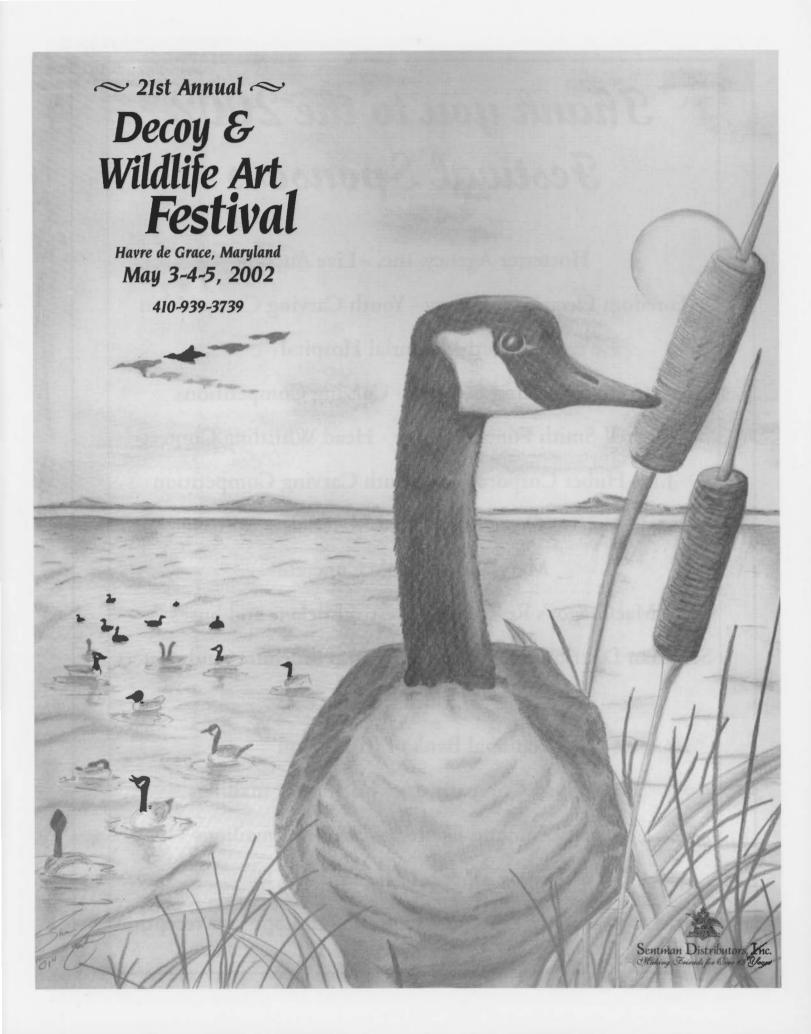
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Other

Cresswell, Carol F.

Festival Program

Dates - May 3 - 4 - 5, 2002 Locations

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, Giles Street (DM) Havre de Grace Middle School, Lewis Lane (MS) Havre de Grace High School, Congress Avenue (HS)

2002 Honorary Chairman - Patrick Vincenti

Admission - \$5.00 per day. \$8.00 for weekend pass. Children under 12 are admitted free with an adult.

Friday, May 3 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Show

Saturday, May 4 Event Schedule

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Show
6:30 - 9:00 a.m. Exhibitor Breakfast
American Legion Post #47
501 St. John Street, Havre de Grace

10:30 a.m. Atlantic Flyway Classic Carving

Competition Judging HS Auxiliary Gym

Decorative L/S Floating Division Decorative L/S Non-Floating Division Decorative Miniature Division River Gunning Division - MUS 11:00 a.m. Sponsored by County Banking & Trust

12:00 & 3:00 p.m. Silent Auctions - HS Lobby

- 12:30 3:00p.m. Postal Service Stamp Canceling & Past Honorary Chairmen Autograph Session - MS Media Center
- 1:00, 2:00 & 3:00 p.m. Retriever Demonstrations - DM Grounds Retriever World presents Oakdale Retrievers with Vicky Trainor & friends

1:00 p.m. Live Auction Preview - HS Auditorium

4:00 p.m. Live Auction Bidder Registration - HS Auditorium 5:30 p.m. Live Decoy Auction - HS Auditorium, Jay Edwards auctioneer Sponsored by Hostetter Agency, Inc.

Sunday, May 5 Event Schedule 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Show

10:30 a.m. Carving Competition Judging - HS Auxiliary Gym Youth Gunning Division Sponsored by J.M. Huber Corporation & Foredom Electric Co. Decorative Slick Division Decorative L/S Fish Division Gunning Decoy Division

11:00 a.m. Gunning Rig Division - DM Grounds

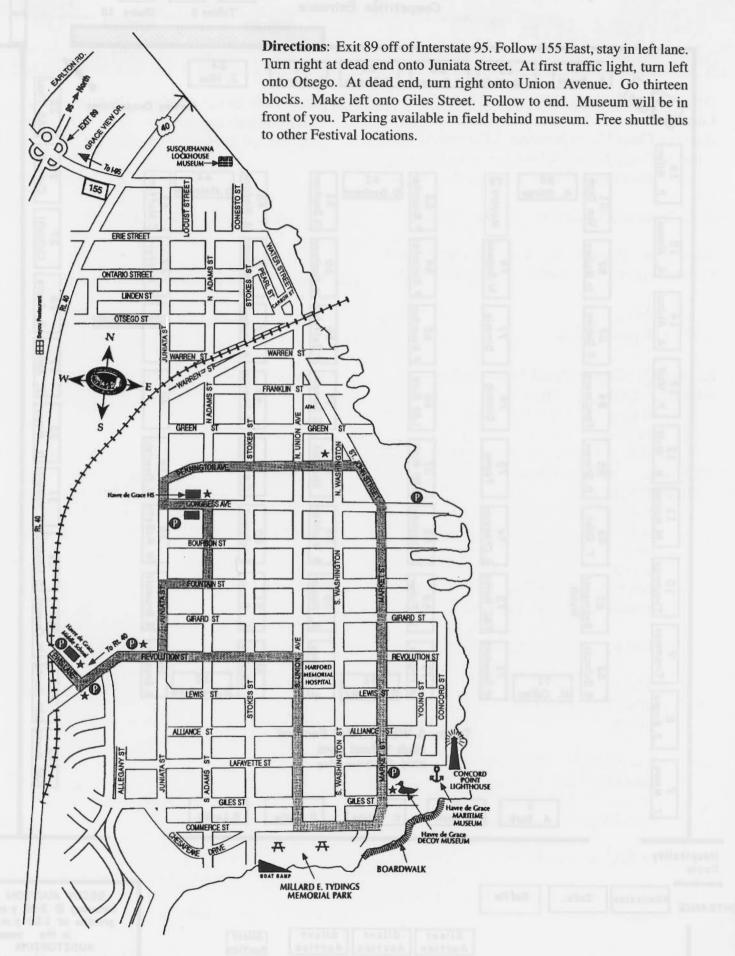
- 12:00 p.m. Cocktail Division HS Auxiliary Gym Carving Competitions sponsored by County Banking & Trust
- 12:00 & 3:00 p.m. Silent Auctions HS Lobby
- 1:00 & 2:00 p.m. Retriever Demonstrations -DM Grounds Retriever World presents Oakdale Retrievers with Vicky Trainor & friends

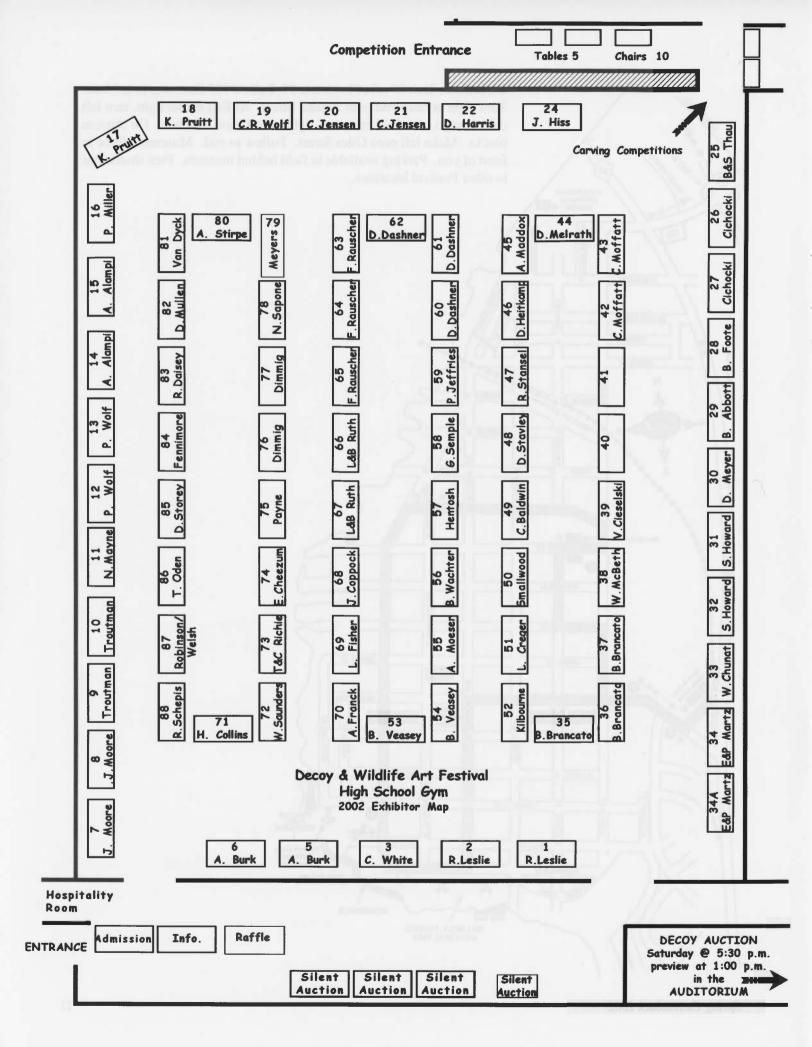
1:00 p.m. Head Whittling Contest - MS Stage Sponsored by Mitchell-Smith Funeral Home

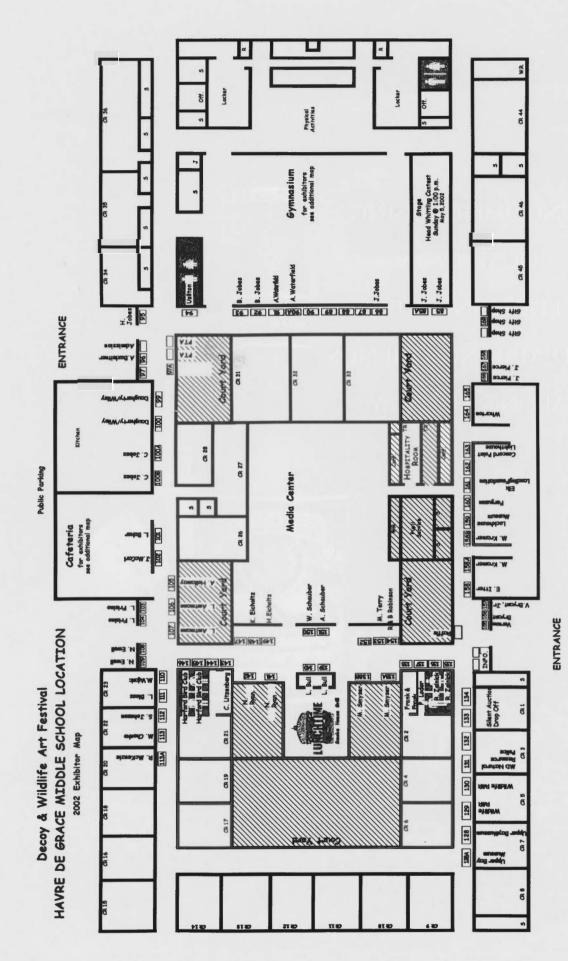
1:30 p.m. Wildfowl Presentation by the Patuxent Research Center MS Media Center

3:45 p.m. Festival Raffle Drawing - MS Lobby

4:00 p.m. Festival Closes







Shuttle Bus Transportation



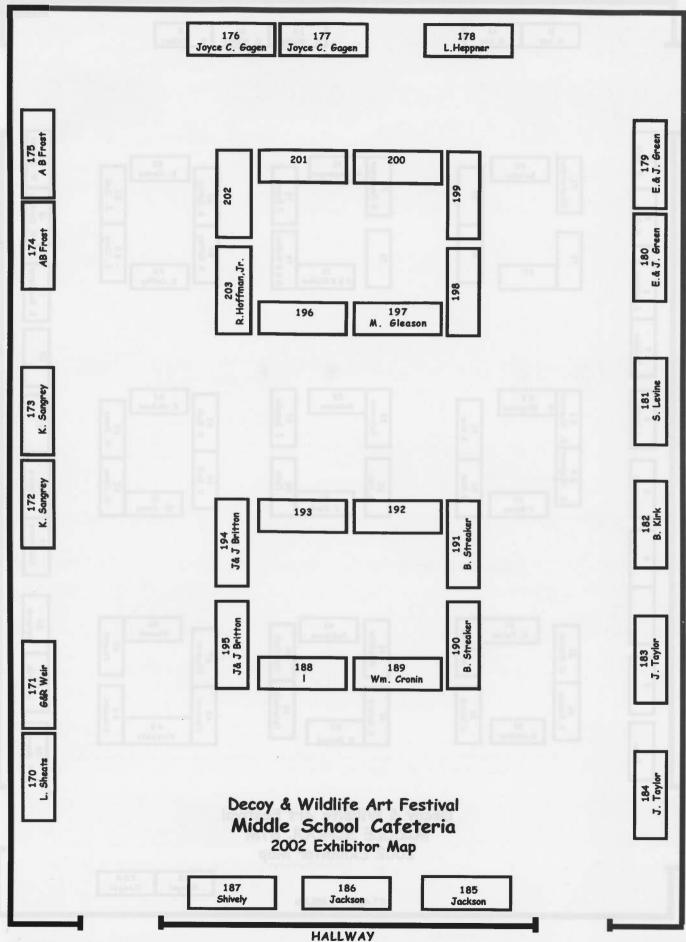
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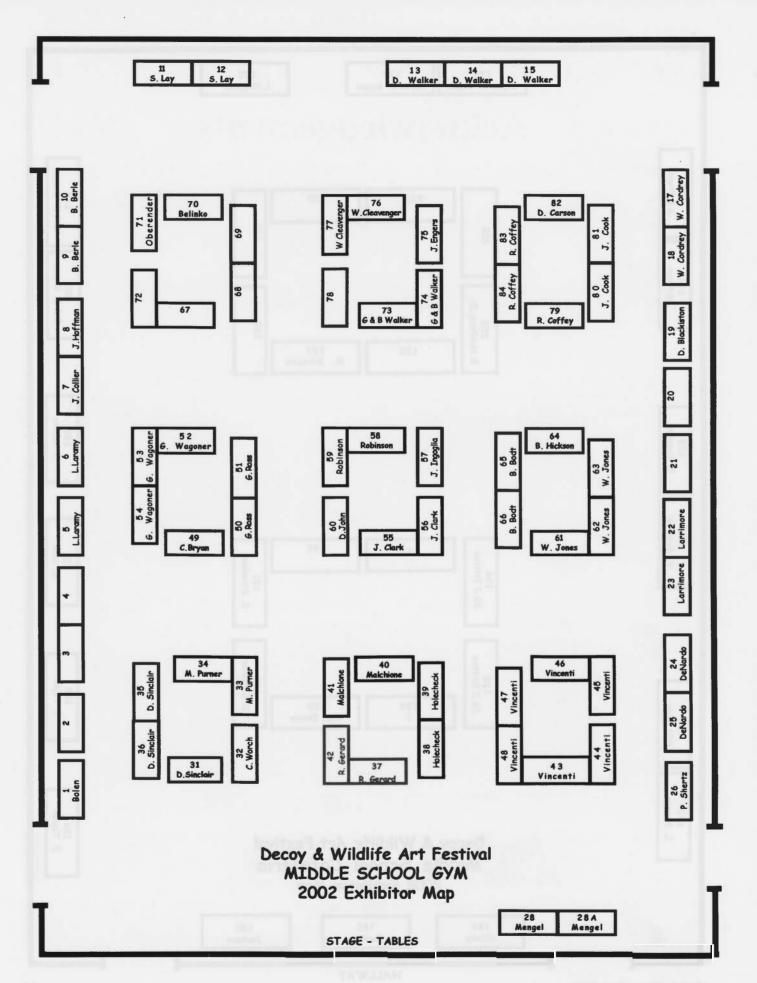
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Paul & Debbie Shertz 922 Laura Lee Circle Bear, DE 19701 paulshertz@aol.com 302-834-8427

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MS 110 Duro M. Vujanic Mill Creek Decoys 31625 West Edge Road Millington, MD 21651 410-928-3644 MS 52,53,54 Gilmore B. Wagoner 4310 Webster-Lapidum Rd. Havre de Grace, MD 21078 410-939-5655

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MS 13,14,15 David Walker 221 N. Lapidum Road Havre de Grace, MD 21078 410-939-4310

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MS 164 Kevin Wharton 919 Rocklyn road Springfield, PA 19064 610-543-1909

MS 32 Chris Worch 44581 Oliver Drive Valley Lee, MD 20692 301-994-0379

MS 135,136 Ronald Zelnick 1251 S. Highland St. Mt. Dora, FL 32757 407-353-7484

Spring Canvasback 2002

Carving Classes at The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Winter 2002

Award winning carver Jeff Moore leads adult carving classes at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum every Monday morning from 9:00am to 12:30pm. Beginners through accomplished carvers meet and enjoy the companionship and support of this group. If you are interested in joining this group or learning more about the class please contact the museum at (410) 939-3739.



Canvasback drake. John Parsons.



Monday morning carving class.

Orioles and green heron. Earl Dennis.



Maryland Portable



Concrete

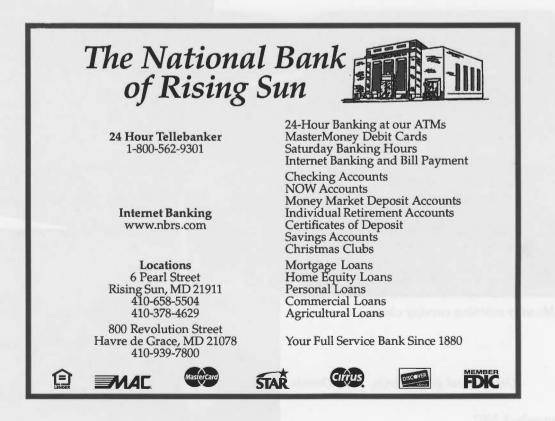
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Havre de Grace Decoy Museum 21st Annual Decoy Festival Auction Saturday, May 4, 2002

Preview begins at 1:00pm Bidder registration begins at 4:00 pm, personal identification required. Auction at 5:30 pm All sales transactions will begin at close of auction Auctioneer: Jay Edwards

Terms of Sale: Cash, Personal check, Visa or Mastercard A 10% Seller's Premium will be applied to all consigned items. A 10% Buyer's Premium and 5% Sales Tax will be applied to all items auctioned. (Consignors will be charged 20% of the auction price for all buy backs.) All proceeds from this event go to benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.

> Following is the Auction List as of March 25, 2002. An updated list will be available at the Festival.

| Lot Price Realiz | zed Item | Lot Price Realized Item | |
|------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | To be determined | 12 | Miniature Wood Duck pair by Steiner Pierce Havre de Grace, MD signed |
| 2 | To be determined | | |
| 3 | To be determined | 13 | Set of three iron miniatures by Leonard Burcham (Mallard pair & Canvasback drake) Havre de Grace, MD circa 1991 |
| 4 | To be determined | | |
| 5 | To be determined | 14 | Ruddy Duck pair by Bill Shauber, Chestertown, MD 1994 signed & dated, arrow brass plate #15, branded 15/50 |
| 6 | Blue Wing Teal Pair carved by Charlie | | |
| | Bryan, signed and dated 1996, Middle River MD | 15 | Mallard pair by Bill Schauber, Chestertown, MD 1992 signed & dated |
| 7 | Oversize Canvasback Drake carved by Charlie Bryan signed and dated 1959, original paint - Middle River MD | 16 | Black Duck pair (sleeper & swimmer) by Bryon Bodt Churchville MD, branded "BODT" |
| 8 | Canvasback Hen (rare) carved by Charlie | 17 | Canvasback Drake by Columbus (Lum) |
| | Bryan signed and dated 1953, original paint | | Fletcher, Havre de Grace old bird (late |
| | Middle River MD | | 1800s) repainted - great structure |
| 9 | Canvasback Drake carved by Charlie Bryan | 18 | Highhead Canvasback Drake by Norris |
| | and painted by RM Mitchell | | Pratt Kembelsville, PA circa 1921 some original paint |
| 10 | Blue Wing Teal Drake (Charles T. Wilson | 10 | |
| | Style) carved by Butch Parker Holtwood PA, 1993 (signed, branded with copper plate, undated) wood from a 1720 Lancaster | 19 | Canvasback Drake by Taylor Boyd, Perryville, MD repainted - found in Virginia |
| | PA log cabin | 20 | Canvasback Drake by Calvin Pearson repainted by RMM |
| 11 | Miniature Wood Duck pair by Art Boxleitner, PA (signed & dated) | | Task I |

21st Annual **Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival** Auction



Litzenberg

Urie

Hollys

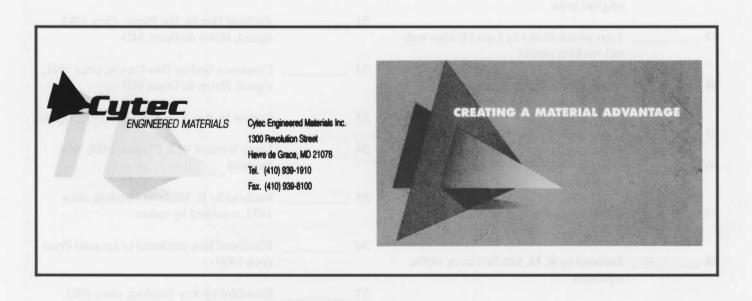
Currier

Mitchells

Bryan

| Lot Price I | Realized Item | Lot Price Realize | ed Item |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| 21 | Canvasback Drake by Jim Currier, repainted neck repair by Paul Fortin, Branded under bill by Robert Stanley McKinney | 39 | Small Swan - unknown maker, Pennsylvania |
| | | 40 | Coot by Bill Broadwater, circa early 1900s, |
| 22 | Black Duck old working decoy from the Eastern Shore with iron weight circa 1890s | head of longing | Bohemian River style |
| | | 41 | Pintail Pair by Charlie Bryan, signed and |
| 23 | Canvasback old working decoy by Ben Dye - reheaded with working repaint | | dated 1999, original paint |
| | | 42 | Coot by Charlie Bryan, signed and dated |
| 24 | Canvasback Drake by Bob Litzenberg, original paint, Signed & dated 1950 | | 1999, original paint |
| | 31 Annual Constantian Design (and press) | 43 | Canvasback Drake by Holly, working |
| 25 | Canvasback Drake by Capt. Harry Jobes, original paint, Signed & dated 1989 | | repaint reheaded by Holly circa 1800s |
| | | 44 | Canvasback Drake, Holly family, working |
| 26 | Canvasback Drake by Jim Holly, circa 1910, repaint Leonard Pryor | Harry Johns. | paint, 'W' carved in bottom |
| | | 45 | Canvasback Drake by R. Madison Mitchell, |
| 27 | Canvasback Drake by Bill Litzenberg, original paint, Signed & dated 1970 | Life providi | circa 1960s, original paint |
| | al Industria evaluated in our fermior | 46 | Black Duck by Josiah Travers, cork, circa |
| 28 | Canvasback Drake by R Madison Mitchell, original paint, circa 1950s | No.nortiC | 1920s Dorchester County |
| | 6 F, | 47 | Canvasback Drake by Ed Pearson, old |
| 29 | Canvasback Hen, Leonard Pryor shelf | and the second second | working repaint with iron weight |
| | model circa 1920s repaint by Capt Jess Urie | | norming repaint with non worght |
| | model chea 19203 repaire by Capt Jess One | 48 | Redhead Drake by Will Heverin in old |
| 30 | Canvasback Drake by Sam Barnes circa | +0 | working repaint |
| 50 | 1900 good condition old working repaint | | working repaint |
| | 1900 good condition old working repaint | 40 | Ministure Converbally collection by next |
| 31 | Widgeon Drake by Capt. Jess Urie with old working repaint | 49 | Miniature Canvasback collection by past Decoy Festival chairmen |
| | norming repaire | 50 | Canvasback Drake by Jim Holly, circa |
| 32 | Canvasback by Capt. Jess Urie circa 1930s, original paint | | 1900, Havre de Grace MD |
| | | 51 | Redhead Hen by Jim Pierce, circa 1982, |
| 33 | Canvasback Drake by Lum Fletcher with old working repaint | | signed, Havre de Grace MD |
| | | 52 | Cinnamon Teal by Dan Carson, circa 1991, |
| 34 | Mallard by R Madison Mitchell, cork, original paint, good condition | | signed, Havre de Grace MD |
| | | 53 | Curlew by Ray Yingling, circa 1992, signed |
| 35 | Canvasback Drake, Herters circa 1950s | | curion of hug hinging, oncu 1992, signed |
| | | 54 | Loon, branded W. J. C. circa 1988, New |
| 36 | Canvasback Drake by Chuncy Reynolds, Northeast, MD | | England |
| | | 55 | Redhead by R. Madison Mitchell, circa |
| 37 | Old Squaw, unknown carver, Chesapeake Bay style circa 1930s | | 1952, repainted by maker |
| | | 56 | Blackhead Hen attributed to Leonard Pryor |
| 38 | Redhead by R. M. Mitchell circa 1950s, repainted | | circa 1900 |
| | | 57 | Shorebird by Ray Yingling, circa 1992, |
| | | 57 | signed |
| | | | or Direct |

| Lot Price Reali | zed Item | Lot Price Realiz | ed Item |
|-----------------|--|------------------|--|
| 58 | Brant by Jim Pierce circa 1987, signed, Havre de Grace MD | 68 | Canvasback Drake by Bob McGaw, early hand chopped circa 1920, Wilkens brand |
| 59 | Chester River Decoys Greenwinged Teal Gunner pair by Mali Vujanic signed & dated 2002, Chestertown, MD | 69 | Canvasback Drake by Capt. Harry Jobes, circa 1974 in Aberdeen Shop |
| | 41 Yundi Yun by Charles Hypers | 70 | Canvasback Drake by Jim Currier, Currier |
| 60 | _ Miniature Pintail pair by Mali Vjuanic, signed & dated 2002 Chestertown, MD | | paint, circa 1930, "CC" Brand |
| | | 71 | Canvasback Drake by William Holley, old |
| 61 | Brant, hollow body by R. L. Rineer, signed & dated Martic Forge, PA | | working repaint, circa 1910 (rare) |
| | | 72 | - |
| 62 | Canvasback Drake by R. L. Rineer, upper bay style, signed & dated Martic Forge, PA | | county maker, circa 1925 |
| | | 73 | Coot Decoy, Herters, circa 1950s |
| 63 | Pair Dipper Swans by Capt. Harry Jobes, signed & dated circa 1978 | 74 | Black Duck Decoy, Herters, circa 1950s |
| 64 | Canvasback Drake by Paul Gibson, old working repaint circa 1950 | 75 | "Decoy Makers of the Susquehanna Flats" framed print by Paul Schertz 705/1200 signed by R. Madison Mitchell & J. Evans |
| 65 | Canvasback Drake by Paul Gibson, old working repaint circa 1950 | | McKinney |
| | | 76 | "Harford County Canvasbacks" print by |
| 66 | Canvasback Drake - Wash Barnes family, old working repaint circa 1900 | | Paul Shertz 739/750 signed by R. Madison Mitchell & Harry Jobes |
| 67 | Canvasback Drake by Sam Barnes, old working repaint, circa 1915 | | |



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Autographs

Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival 1982-2002

Honorary Chairmen

| R. Madison Mitchell | 1982 |
|-------------------------|------|
| deceased | |
| Paul Gibson | 1983 |
| deceased | |
| Charles Bryan | 1984 |
| No Chairman | 1985 |
| Robert Litzenberg | 1986 |
| deceased | |
| Charles Joiner | 1987 |
| Captain Harry Jobes | 1988 |
| Captain Bill Collins | 1989 |
| Captain Roger Urie | 1990 |
| James Pierce | 1991 |
| James Currier | 1992 |
| deceased | |
| William "Bill" Schauber | 1993 |
| and | |
| Allan Schauber | |
| Robert McGaw | 1994 |
| deceased | |
| J. Evans McKinney | 1995 |
| deceased | |
| Harry V. Shourds II | 1996 |
| Ronald Rue | 1997 |
| Lem and Steve Ward | 1998 |
| deceased | |
| Oliver Lawson | 1999 |
| John "Daddy" Holly, | 2000 |
| James Holly, | |
| William"Bill", and | |
| John Holly Jr. | |
| deceased | |
| Charles Nelson Barnard | 2001 |
| deceased | |
| Patrick Vincenti | 2002 |
| | |

R. Madison Mitetel

Paul Gibson

Robert & Litzenberg

James a Bunier

Potet F. Willow Je.

Charles Welson Barnord

Spring Canvasback 2002



PATRICK VINCENTI Decoy Carver and Collector

By C. John Sullivan

The Bel Air Bakery has been open now for forty-seven years. Sadly I must confess to being a too loyal and faithful customer of this establishment. One morning in the early 1970s as I stood at the counter reviewing the day's selections, a strapping young russet-haired baker came bolting down the stairs from the cake decorating area and passed by me. A cloud of flour filtered off of his white uniform and settled on my navy blazer. This scene was to be repeated many times over the course of years. Meanwhile, a charming young brunette convinced me to buy more donuts than I ever needed; as the owner so often told me, he liked getting his customers hooked on these pastries early to ensure the continuance of the business for his son. I was to find out that the baker was one of those Havre de Grace boys who was working part time in the decoy shop of R. Madison Mitchell; his name was Patrick Vincenti, and the brunette behind the counter was his bride-to-be, Jeannie.

In those days I traveled with a carved coot head resting on the dashboard of my pickup truck, a totem of sorts. The carved head was presented to me by Madison Mitchell and carved by him - as it turned out, it was one of the last coot heads he ever carved. Pat would come out the back door of the bakery to deliver a pair of his decoys to me and debate the origin of that head. I never looked, but I am sure Pat presented a rather unusual image, flour on his hands, hair, face, and uniform and sawdust and wood chips on his work boots. He discovered my passion for the historic wooden fowl and would taunt me with the shielded offer of an ancient decoy that wore the brand of theCarroll's Island Ducking Club. He claimed the old decoy was in a shed behind his mother's house in Havre de Grace. I was to find out years later the fate of that decoy, but I know for a fact that I did spend many an hour fantasizing about when that decoy would join my collection.

Patrick started to work part time in the bakery when he was in the 9th grade. His mother's sister was married to the owner. By 1972 he was a full time baker, keeping the locals fat and happy with the best pastries in the county. In 1975 Pat went to work part time in the decoy shop of master carver R. Madison Mitchell of Havre de Grace. Patrick said that an understanding and generosity existed among Madison Mitchell, Paul Gibson and Edward Sampson. They each were willing teachers, mentors, and father figures, sharing everything they knew about decoys. Pat and I agree that it must have always been this way in Havre de Grace going back to the days of the Hollys, Barnes, McGaw and others. This tradition of cooperation from one generation of carvers to the next had to exist in order to produce the great decoys that came from this region.

Patrick related to me the story of Madison Mitchell's favorite drawknife. Late one night working in the shop alone and using Mr. Mitchell's knife, the worst possible thing happened - it broke. Not knowing exactly what to do, he took it home with him. When Mitchell arrived in the shop the next morning, there was quite a stir. As any craftsman knows, an attachment is assigned to tools that for a multitude of reasons feel better and work better than others. Many inquiries were made to track down the missing tool. Several knew that Patrick was the last one to leave the shop the night before, and thus he became the first to be questioned. Pat freely admitted to the others that he was to blame and would have the knife repaired but please don't speak of this to Mr. Mitchell, they all agreed of course. But when Pat next arrived at the shop Mitchell instantly reprimanded him, much to the delight of all the boys. When the repaired knife returned, Patrick's name was placed on it with instruction to all, "For Vincenti's Use Only."

After years of guidance under the tutelage of Mitchell and Captain Bill Collins, Pat set up his own shop behind his house in Churchville. Many of the younger generation of carvers who trained under Mitchell did their very best to imitate his carving and painting style once they had left the Mitchell shop. After all, that is what they had learned to carve, and each knew that it was a tried and true decoy style. Mitchell himself had relied on the patterns of Holly, Barnes and other earlier Havre de Grace carvers. He had learned to paint from Captain Billy Moore, Robert F. McGaw's father-in-law, and fashioned his body pattern from an early Holly body. If the product worked for Mitchell and others, why not stick with it? Not so with Pat Vincenti. No sooner was he out on his own that he altered the paint styles just enough to make them HIS style. [I fretted for years about those carvers who rely on the success of others for self-gain. For one thing, it damages the value of the originals by flooding the market with copycat decoys. Why not do your own thing, I would ask, "Well, if it worked for Mitchell, why not me?" was a typi-



Blackduck preener from Pat's first order for 100 decoys. cal response. Patrick Vincenti did not follow this mold; he did his own thing.]

He changed his paint mix, creating a more satin like finish, changed the paint patterns, and reworked Mitchell's head patterns ever so slightly. By 1976 Patrick had opened his own decoy shop behind the house that he and Jeannie rented in Churchville. Vincenti turned his decoy bodies on Mitchell's lathe then later adapted a pattern to use on Paul Gibson's lathe. Several years later they purchased their own home, and Pat bought himself a duplicating lathe. He used Mitchell's patterns for the decoy bodies and the Mitchell style head, but he made subtle changes and refinements. He received an order for 100 black duck decoys in 1979 and called upon Clarence "Titbird" Bauer to assist with the painting."Titbird" is one of the most renowned scratch painters on the Chesapeake. Many think that to paint a decoy you simply open the paint can and begin applying paint. Not so. In order to achieve the realistic colors, considerable effort and paint mixing experience is necessary. Patrick's painting is well blended, yet sharp and precise at the same time.

Pat left the Bel Air Bakery in 1985 and began carving decoys full time. Captain Bill Collins has worked with Pat since 1987. Pat says Collins has influenced him as much as anyone except perhaps Mitchell. Captain Bill tells me that when Pat left the bakery and went into the decoy business, he gave him one piece of advice. He said, "Pat, you have to focus on one thing, Quality not Quantity." He feels that Patrick has followed his advice, and a natural progression has occurred. He says without a doubt that in his opinion "Pat is the best painter of production decoys in the Upper Bay region." Today Pat and Bill sit opposite one another at the paint table, working together, helping one another, and making ever so subtle improvements along the way.

Those who study Pat's finished decoys may not realize the number of steps involved in the production of these decoys. For example, a well-carved head involves between ten to twelve steps from a block of wood to a finished head ready to attach to a finished body. In addition to all the species carved by Mitchell, Pat has added ruddy ducks, loons, mergansers — both hooded and redbreasted — and old squaws. Pat humbly showed me one of his first old squaws from 1982 and a 1985 red-breasted merganser. He feared the 1985 model looked too much like Woody Woodpecker but the refinements over the last fifteen plus years now produce a well made realistic merganser decoy.

Pat recently told me that he did in fact have that Carroll Island decoy and many other antique birds. He sold a load of them that filled the back of his pickup in 1975 just before Christmas. He wanted to raise some cash to buy gifts for Jeannie and their family. He said that he has missed those old decoys since they left him. He is now a dedicated collector of the historic wooden fowl, and all the artifacts associated with them. I get an occasional report from some of the old time gunners and collectors from whom I have acquired things that the Vincenti fellow from Havre de Grace has been calling or stopping by. A tour of his home and shop quickly convinced me that he has been doing a lot more than just stopping by. Patrick Vincenti has grown as a carver and is now growing to genuinely appreciate the rich heritage of the waterfowling region.

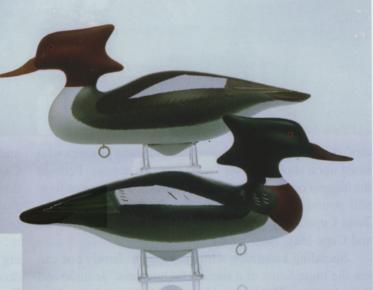
Today Pat produces approximately 1,200 decoys each year. At least eighty percent of these are for the collec-

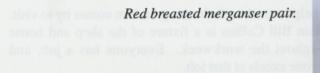


Patrick and Jeannie painting preening Canada geese in 1985.



Bluewing teal pair.





mick. Vincenti continues to carve excellent decoys.



Woodduck preener pair.



Pintail pair with carved mandibles, nail, and nostrils.



Captain Bill Collins and Pat Vincenti painting canvasbacks at the painting table.

tors' shelves. There are, however, still some gunners who insist upon shooting over "real" wooden decoys. Perhaps the biggest order that Pat ever completed was a seven foot, 650 pound black duck decoy for the great room of the Twin Cape Ferry that travels between Lewes, Delaware and Cape May, New Jersey.

Spending a morning with the Vincenti family one can see the ingredients of a successful business. Jeannie and their daughters Patricia and Loren have always helped out in the decoy business. Jeannie has been by Pat's side since the beginning, sanding, puttying, priming, painting, and supporting him in all that he does. Today she still does all of those things plus manages the decoy store in Havre de Grace. Pat's mother has moved in with Pat and Jeannie and helps out when their new grandson comes by to visit. Captain Bill Collins is a fixture of the shop and house throughout the workweek. Everyone has a job, and everyone excels at that job.

Patrick Vincenti continues to carve excellent decoys, incorporating the best of all of his teachers in his unending quest to produce an outstanding decoy. He serves the decoy community as the President of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Board of Directors. He brings with him to that role his skills as a carver, his knowledge from having grown up in the decoy carving world, his experience as a collector, and his deep appreciation for the decoy heritage of this region.

Pat, Loren, Patricia, and Jeannie at the Havre de Grace Decoy Show.





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* Game Bird Calls duck, goose, turkey, and others

- Collectible Hunting & Fishing Literature out-of-print books and magazines hunting & fishing club records, photos, etc.
 - Old Sporting Arms & Related Items shotgun shell boxes, powder tins, wooden shipping boxes, etc.

* Collectible Wildlife & Sporting Art artist prints, calendar art, duck & wildfowl stamp art

- * Old Advertisements for Hunting & Fishing Products and Equipment
 - * Antique Hunting & Fishing Licenses paper, pin backs, buttons, badges, etc.
 - * Historic Trapping Items
 - * And Other Hunting & Fishing Artifacts

Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine serves as a Clearing House of information for the many different specialty clubs and associations that exist within the H & F Collectors arena. H & F C publishes "Contact Person" information for the various groups as well as "Time & Place" announcements for their upcoming shows and events.

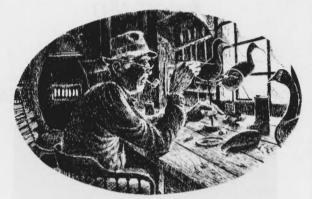
The writers of H & F C's articles, as authorities in their

particular fields of collecting, are making substantial contributions to the growing pool of information about H & F collectibles.

Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine provides a kind of cross pollination within the hobby, thus multiplying the overall number of collectors. "Information breeds interest."

The magazine is printed on heavy, glossy stock with many color plates and is published bimonthly. The Premiere Issue (Nov-Dec 2000) and all other back issues are still available to new subscribers. For subscriber and advertiser information, please contact:

> Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine Stan Van Etten, Publisher PO Box 40 • Lawsonville, NC 27022-0040



Art by Lou Schiffer

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DECOY IMAGES OF THE BAY AREA



Hunter's Tools of the Trade

21st Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

Visit us in the Middle School Cafeteria table # MS 178

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Gift Shop



HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

The Gift Shop has some great new additions coming for the Festival. T-Shirts, beautiful enamel pins and new postcards are just a few of the highlights we'll have in stock for spring. Be sure to check out Heidi's new selection of books as well! A few titles include:

<u>Chesapeake Wildlife Stories of Survival and Loss</u>, by Pat Vojtech

<u>Chesapeake Bay A Field Guide</u>, by Christopher P. White

Chesapeake Almanac, by John Page Williams Jr.

<u>My Favorite Maryland Recipes</u>, by Helen Avalynne Tawes.

Remember your shopping in the gift shop is another way to support the museum. Income earned by the shop, goes directly to support our operations, education programs and exhibit changes!



Honorary Chairman Waturch Vincent

The Havre de Grace Arts Commission Presents The Musical Mile Saturday, May 4, 2002 5:00 to 8:00 PM Washington St. Andy McIntyre Niki Lee David Jaffe **Planete Folle** St. John St. Hiram Brown **Kenny** Jones **Project Natale Bobby Griffith Union** Avenue **Dogs Among the Bushes** Franklin St. Christina Harrison



P.O. Box 883 Chesterown, MD 21620

MUSEUM NEWS

Volunteer Activities

By all external appearances the museum has been quietly waiting out winter for the 21st Annual Decoy Festival and the new tour season to begin. Don't be fooled by this demeanor! The site has been like bee hive of activity inside those walls.

Lots of volunteers have been helping us get a wide variety of projects accomplished. Special thanks to the following people and organizations for their hands on contributions:

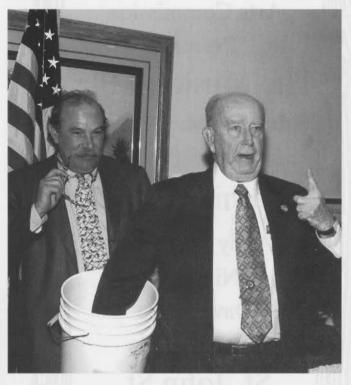
Tom Shively AmeriCorps Volunteers Dave Finlayson Gateway project Coordinator, Skip Meehan Exhibits Specialist, Chris White All of our Carvers, Visitor Services Volunteers and Board Members!



Volunteer David Finlayson helping out with a Canvasback mailing.

Thank-You Mr. Mitchell!

Special Thanks to the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment for its generous support of the Decoy Museum. In addition to supporting the museums working decoy acquisition budget, the Endowment gave the museum a check for \$10,000.00 to help off set a portion of the 2001 building's repair debt. We continue to make progress with that project. We also thank INTEL Construction for their willingness to work with us on this on this unexpected expense.



Comptroller William Donald Schafer drawing raffle winners with John Quarstein.



Decoy carver Joe Cook at work in the R. Madison Mitchell Workshop.



Board members John Ingoglia, Madelyn Shank, and Ed Watts at work.

Board Members Update

Welcome home Doctor Carriere. Doc is recovering from hip surgery. We look forward to seeing him around the museum again in the near future, no doubt he misses trying to keep our staff "in-line". We miss Kevin Peel. Kevin has taken a leave of absence from his place on the Board to assist with American military efforts in Afghanistan. Kevin is sending us some decoys he found over there. Please keep Kevin in your thoughts. We hope for his speedy and safe return. We heartily welcome new board members William Acker and Laura DeNardo to the Museum's Board of Directors.

Poster Contest Winners

Congratulations to our 2002 Festival Poster Contest Winner, Havre de Grace High School Senior, Shawn Forton! Shawn's rendering of Canada Geese on the Flats makes a nice representation for this year's Annual Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival. Shawn and the other poster contest winners are from the art class of Mrs. Jenna Zimmerman who has long supported this contest with entries from her high school classes. Shawn, and the other



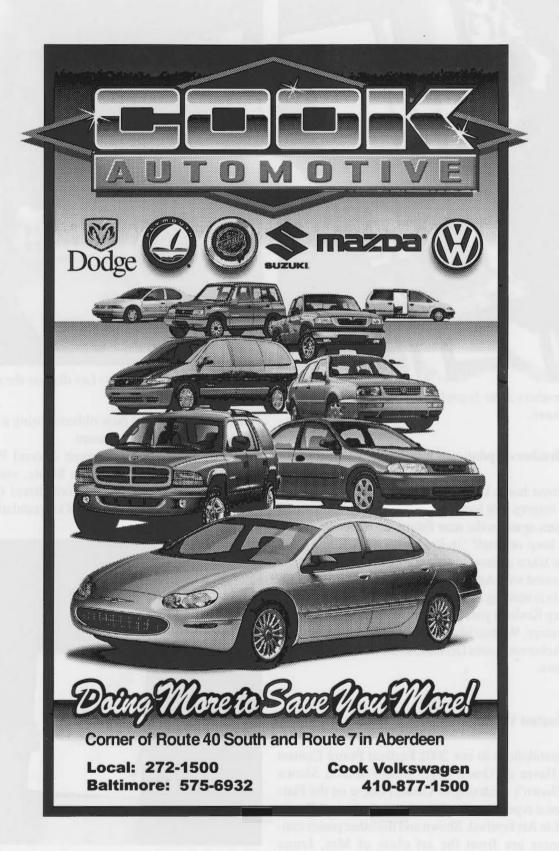
Patrick Vincenti and Kenny Lay discuss the placement of library plaques.

winners were awarded their ribbons during a reception on April 7th at the Decoy Museum.

Other contest winners were: Second Place, Errick Chisley; Third Place, Gretchen Slentz; and Honorable Mentions went to Alison Bradford, Becci Correri, Lisa Genslinger, and Summer Jones. Congratulations to all of this years winners!!!



Poster contest winner Shawn Forton. A student of Jenna Zimmerman of Havre de Grace High School.



6TH ÅNNUAL Sporting Clays Event

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2002

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HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM 410 - 939 -3739

ANNUAL SPORTING CLAYS PRE-REGISTRATION

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|--------------------------------------|---|
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| CITY & STATE: | PHONE: |
| PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE | TO: HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM |
| MAIL TO: HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM | 215 GILES STREET HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078 |

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum At A Glance

Mission Statement

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.

Quick Statistics

Founded 1981, Opened 1986 2001 Attendance: 17,809 visitors Total Group Tours: 80 groups 2001 Membership: 1225 Total Volunteers : Appx. 200 Operating Budget \$350,000.00

Facilities

Three Main Galleries and a fully preserved authentic 1940's Carver's Workshop, Full Research Library, Two fully equipped modern Carving Workshops, A museum gift shop, Visitor's Information area and offices.

Operations

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is open everyday except New Year's Day; Easter; Thanksgiving; and Christmas. The hours are 11:00am to 4:00pm daily. Group discounts, and flexible tour schedules are available with advanced reservations. Contact the museum at (410) 939-3739 for more information.

Membership

Supporting the Havre de Grace Decoy museum with a membership is an important way to demonstrate your interest in preserving the historic art of decoy carving and waterfowling on the Susquehanna Flats and Chesapeake Bay. Our museum is unique from many others, in that our mission is to preserve the art and history of working decoys.

Gift Memberships

Give a membership to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum as a gift to family or friends that enjoy the many aspects of decoys, folk art, hunting, Havre de Grace history and the heritage and life ways on the Susquehanna Flats and Chesapeake Bay.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is a non-profit organization dependent on volunteers in many aspects of our operations. If you believe you may have an interest in becoming a part of our team, please check the box on our membership information form or give us a call at (410) 939-3739. We'll be happy to send you a brochure and application form describing the opportunities for participation with our museum.



| Individual Family Business Life Student Student | Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Membership Information | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
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| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY | FOR OFFICE USE ONLY | | | | |

Spring Canvasback 2002

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Membership Information



Longaberger Basket Bingo Friday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m. Fallston Fire Hall 2201 Carrs Mill Rd.

Tickets are \$12.00 per person. Included are three cards for each regular game. Twenty games will be played, including special games and raffle drawings.

Tickets are available at the museum or by calling Meaghan Coats at 410-638-1397

Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to support education programs and exhibit updates at the museum.

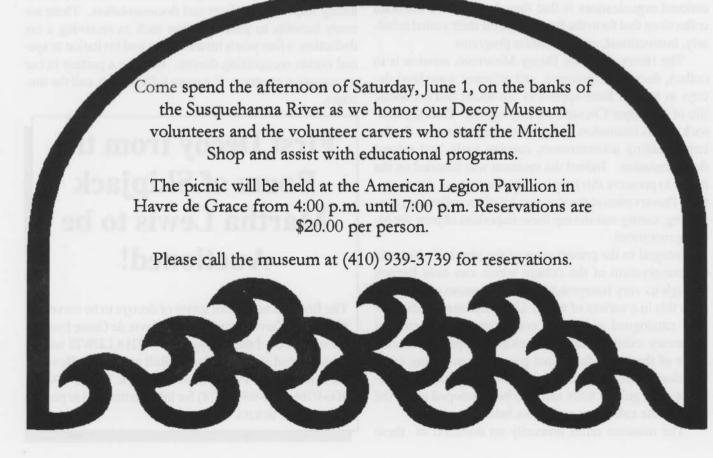
WHERE THERE IS A WILL THERE IS A WAY

While many people make annual contributions to help support the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, a few of our supporters may wish to make the extra commitment of providing for the museum's future needs through a will or a trust. These special gifts provide lasting support for our efforts to preserve the art and culture of decoy making in the upper Chesapeake Bay region.

Although there are many different ways to provide a planned gift to Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, the most common method is a specific bequest through a will or codicil (an amendment of an existing will). Here is a sample of the language that can be used to designate such a gift:

I give and bequeath to Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, a non-profit organization (Tax ID #52-1513642), located at 215 Giles Street, Havre de Grace, MD 21078, for its general purposes, the sum of ______ Dollars - OR - ____% of my residuary estate.

If you would like more information about bequests, trusts, and other methods of planned giving, we strongly recommend that you consult your attorney and your tax or financial advisors to draw up an estate plan that is specific to your needs and interests.



The Value of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's Collections

by Brenda Dorr Guldenzopf, Curator

To understand the value of a museumís collections, one must look at the role the museum plays within the community and society as a whole. Why do museumís have collections? Museums have been created to showcase and preserve significant parts of our cultural and natural heritage. Whether at the local historical society or the Smithsonian Institution, collections are composed of objects that have been acquired through donation or purchase, and are the basis for public education. These institutions are based on the fundamental belief that objects, whether it be a quartz crystal or General Washingtonis sword, are an irreplaceable source of information, which is worthy of collecting, maintaining, researching, and interpreting. Hence, what makes museumís unique among other educational organizations is that they develop and maintain collections that form the foundation for their varied scholarly, instructional, and exhibition programs.

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museumís mission is to collect, document, preserve, and interpret waterfowl decoys as this art form applies to the social and economic life of the upper Chesapeake Bay region. Thus the bedrock of this institution is its historic collections — the decoys, hunting accouterment, carving tools, and related documentation. Indeed the museum was founded on the desire to preserve this irreplaceable heritage or decoy culture. Preservation at the museum involves collecting, conserving, caring and storing these important objects for future generations.

Integral to the preservation of the physical objects is the preservation of the culture which can only happen through its very interpretation. The museum can accomplish this in a variety of ways. Using the museumís carefully catalogued and stored collections, permanent and temporary exhibits can be developed, exploring a wide range of themes. Educational programs, including carving classes, lectures, childrenís programs, hands-on activities and guided tours can also be developed using the items in the collection as the touchstones.

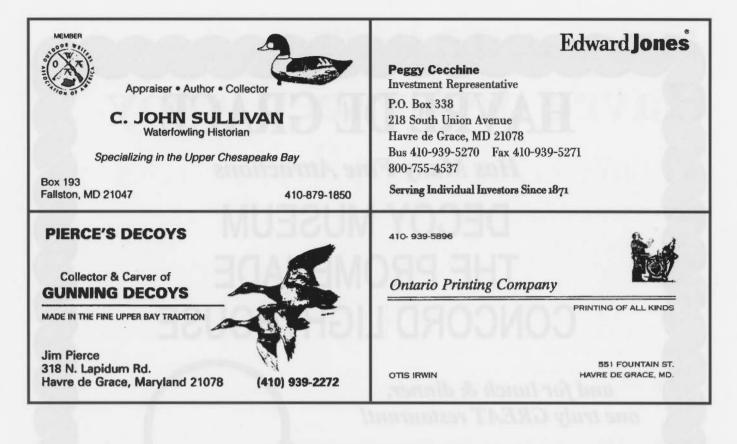
The museum relies primarily on donation of these

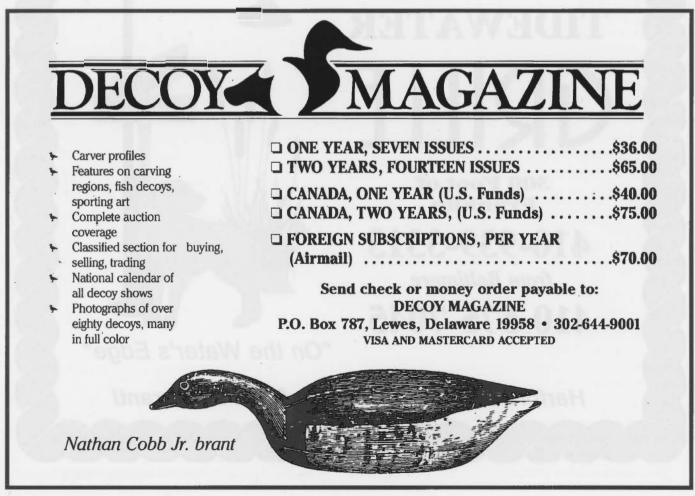
important artifacts to fulfill its mission. It is important to stress that storage of donated collections, not only insures their preservation, but also provides the essential resource from which to develop interpretive exhibits and programs. While the museum acknowledges that it can and does exhibit borrowed collections from other museums, private individuals and organizations; the museum places a higher priority on utilizing its own permanent collections. The museumís educational exhibits and programs therefore are developed thematically from the museumís permanent collection and not from an adhoc temporary loan from a private collection.

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum therefore would like your help in preserving this valuable heritage by donating important artifacts and documentation. There are many benefits to your donation such as receiving a tax deduction, a free year's membership, and invitation to special events recognizing donors. Become a partner in our preservation program. For more information, call the museum.

First Decoy from the Boom of Skipjack Martha Lewis to be Auctioned!

The first in a numbered series of decoys to be carved by Master Carver Joey Jobes of Havre de Grace from the old boom of the Skipjack MARTHA LEWIS will be auctioned at the 8th Annual Bull and Oyster Roast on Friday April 19th at Hutchins Park. Call 1-800-406-0766 (410-939-4078) for information and to purchase event tickets.





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From our Vísítors

"We think this place is spectacular"...... Jenna and Monica

"I díd a report about the marsh and I wish I came here just because it gave a lot of information. I loved it." Ashley

"The ducks flew high in the sky. Fell for the decoy and died."...... Megan Hardy

"Very exciting, Excellent Gift Shop "...... Audrey and Michael Beck, Michigan

"A most unusual and interesting museum."....John and Netty Bradbury, London, England

"Interesting. We learned a lot of facts. The miniatures and mannequins —cool!!!!!! Meade Family, Hanover Park, Ill.

"I really think this is a great and a good tribute to the imaginative minds of the past"...... Eric Otoo, Accia North Ghana

"As an amateur duck carver, I'm impressed with everything."..... George Havercamp

"Fantastic displays_ very much enjoyed, also very friendly "user" town. Thanks & God Bless." Jim Richards, Walnut Cove, NC

About The Canvasback

The Canvasback is published and distributed by the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum as a membership service and promotional tool. The magazine is compiled and mailed quarterly to keep museum members up to date with events, exhibit changes, and programs. We also seek and collect articles, photographs, biographies, local lore and creative writing pieces that specifically address the goals of our mission statement. We invite members, friends and students to submit work for consideration for placement in the magazine. The selection and scheduling of work to appear in the magazine is solely at the discretion of the editor. A tentative schedule of themes and deadlines is as follows:

• Summer 2002......No Theme Yet!.....Submissions and Advertising Due July 15, 2002

• Fall 2002......Members Issue...... Send Us Your favorite Stories, Photo's Etc., Submissions due in for selection and editing by Sept. 15, 2002. Advertising needed by October 15, 2002.

• Winter 2003.....Annual Report/ Year in Review......Submissions and Advertising needed by January 15, 2003.

• Spring 2003......Festival Issue......We'll be seeking articles and photo's about the 2003 Festival Honorary Chairman and Featured Decoy/Duck. Deadline for all materials is March 15,2003.

We are always looking for help to write book reviews (we try to stick with books from our gift shop); special events coverage, (a member's perspective is a nice change of pace); line drawings and artwork will be greatly appreciated, appropriate quote's, cartoons, recipes, poetry.... I'm sure you get the idea! Call me if you have questions or insights that I should consider! Thanks!!! You can contact me, Debra Pence, at the museum at (410) 939-3739.

Volunteers who serve in teast 4 hours per week and present a Decoy Museum Volunteer Card receive a 25% discount in the museum shop and recognition at the annual Volunteers and Carvers Appreciation Day.

For more information or to offer your time, please contact Heidi Schnakenberg or Debra Pence at (410) 939-3739 (o discuss your interests and availability.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

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

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

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

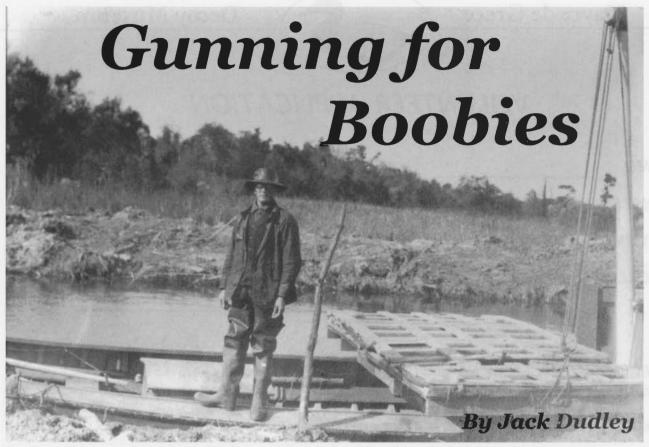
Training will be provided, and schedules are flexible.

Volunteers who serve at least 4 hours per week and present a Decoy Museum Volunteer Card receive a 25% discount in the museum shop and recognition at the annual Volunteers and Carvers Appreciation Day.

For more information or to offer your time, please contact Heidi Schnakenberg or Debra Pence at (410) 939-3739 to discuss your interests and availability.

TOUR GUIDE TRAINING CLASS TO BE HELD IN AUGUST 2002 REGISTER NOW!

| Havre de Grace | |) Decoy Museum |
|--|--|---|
| VOL | UNTEER APPLIC | CATION |
| NAME: | | |
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| WHICH OF THE FOLLOWIN (Please circle one or more) | | NS MOST INTEREST YOU? |
| Admissions Desk Attendant | Gift Shop Clerk | Curatorial Assistant |
| | | |
| Docent (Tour Guide) | Education Assistant | Carving Demonstrator |
| Docent (Tour Guide) Special Events Assistant | Education Assistant Office Assistant | Carving Demonstrator Other: |
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Van Buren Griggs standing in front of his battery and tender boat. Van Griggs holds the record for shooting the most ruddy ducks in a single day — more than 700. He was reputed to have been the greatest shot on Currituck Sound. Van Caroon, who was the pick-up man for Van Griggs, had this to say: "The birds were falling faster than I could pick them up and tie them down. You never saw Van's (Griggs') head come out of the box. I picked up 518 birds out of his first 600 shells. He must have killed more than 700 birds. My own boat was down by her head and shipping water over the bow. The man who bought the birds had a horse and a cart; the day after he had a team of horses with a wagon."

(Reprinted from The Outlaw Gunner by Harry M. Walsh - courtesy of Tidewater Publishers. Photo courtesy of Libby Hickman.)

In the late 1890s and early 1900s, probably more ruddy ducks (traditionally called boobies or booby ducks) congregated on Currituck Sound than anywhere else on earth. There are tales of them rafting twenty acres across, and their feeding would muddy up great portions of the sound.

While some hunters commented that the ruddies were a difficult, elusive target, they were actually an easy quarry, and they were exploited by brutal tactics. Currituck native, Luther Parker, remembered that when he was a boy, a flotilla of boats would corner the birds and drive them toward land, forcing them close together and "penning" them for an easy slaughter, sometimes of as many as 1500-2000 birds. This tactic called "ring shooting" employed by the market shooters was effective because of a peculiar trait of the ruddy ducks—namely, that they would not take off downwind (with the wind *behind* them); nor would they fly over land when taking off. Fortunately, this practice of ring shooting was outlawed in the early 1900s.

In 1901, George Bird Grinnel wrote: "Until within a

few years, gunners in our south Atlantic waters never shot these little birds, which were accustomed to come to the decoys and feed among them and fly away unmolested. Of later years, however, this has become a fashionable bird for the table, and bringing good prices, was eagerly sought by market gunners. Great numbers are therefore killed each season, where formerly they were almost unmolested, and the result has been a very noticeable reduction in the number of these little birds." (Reprinted with the permission of Stackpole Books)

In 1903, Dwight W. Huntington in his book, *Our Feathered Game*, commented: "Statute of North Carolina provides that it shall be unlawful to skiff or ring shoot any boobies between November 10 and February 15."

Another method of shooting ruddy ducks was to anchor batteries on either side of a known flyway. Then, with sailboats or gas launches, hunters would intrude on the ruddies as they lay in rafts on their feeding grounds. As the birds attempted to escape the moving boats, they flew into harm's way—directly into the deadly batteries waiting with the trained guns of the market gunner.

In 1884 the North Carolina noted naturalist, H. H. Brimley, recorded the following market prices for the popular game birds of that year:

| Pair of canvas backs \$1 | 00.1 |
|------------------------------|------|
| Paid of redheads\$ | .50 |
| Pair of "common ducks"\$ | .30 |
| Teal, ruddy, bufflehead\$ | .25 |
| (4 ducks constituted a pair) | |
| Canada goose\$ | .50 |

In 1901, T. Gilbert Pearson, a North Carolina ornithologist, was recruited by the National Audubon Society to help curtail, through political legislation, the slaughter of wild birds. He also made attempts to record the economics of market hunting and reported that in the period of 1903—1909 local buyers paid approximately \$100,000 annually to the 400 market gunners of Currituck County. The fowl were shipped to Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. The following price list was noted by Pearson:

| Pair of canvas backs | \$2 | .75 |
|----------------------|-----|-----|
| Pair of redheads | \$1 | .60 |
| Pair of ruddy ducks | \$ | .90 |
| Canada goose | \$ | .50 |

In a year when redhead and canvasback hunting was lean, Jasper "Bode" White, a Currituck native, staged a large ruddy duck banquet in a New York hotel. The Yankees liked them and the price went up. Initially, they were called "dollar ducks" but the ducks fetched as high as \$2.50 a pair.

In 1905, gunners typically made over \$100 a day. Currituck market hunter St. Clair Lewark reported that in the month of November, 1905, he and three companions



Ruddy ducks shot by Lloyd Doxey. (photo courtesy of Jean Doxey.)

received \$1700 for 2300 ruddy ducks that they shot and sold for shipment. The price had gone up recently. Only a few years ago, they would have received \$85 for such a kill. Fortunately, the sale of ducks was prohibited by Federal law on July 3, 1918, and the market gunner's profession was gone.

The popularity of ruddy duck hunting on Currituck Sound can be verified by the number of ruddy duck decoys that have ended up in decoy collections. The great era of the ring shooting and wholesale slaughter of ruddy ducks was short-lived and is a dark page in North American waterfowling history. But today the tiny decoys are prized decoys that collectors highly admire without giving any thought to their gruesome past.

In the early 1900s Joel Barber, the father of decoy collecting, commented that he was elated to find a collection of ruddy ducks on Knotts Island (Knotts Island forms the northern border of the Currituck Sound), for ruddies were among the rarest decoys on the Atlantic Seaboard. In fact, he began his now famous book, *Wild Fowl Decoys*, with a story about how he acquired the prized decoys from a former professional gunner—the celebrated decoy maker, Mr. Lee Dudley.

In the early years of collecting (before 1970), knowledgeable decoy collectors were very familiar with Dudley decoys. They were greatly valued and fetched high prices in spite of the fact that most existing ones were in poor condition. But thanks to Joel Barber, they were among the most highly sought after decoys. The noted collector, Bill Mackey, thought they were highly over-valued. Nevertheless, a panel of expert collectors surveyed the famed Shelburne collection in 1981 and judged one of the Dudley ruddy decoys as the top decoy in this prestigious collection.

For years, there was confusion about which of the Dudley brothers made the decoys, and the consensus was it could have been Lee or Lem Dudley, despite the fact

> that Joel Barber had specifically stated that the decoys he discovered had the brand "L.D." on the bottom, and that he personally met with Mr. Lee Dudley, the maker. It appeared the issue would remain unresolved, and that no further research material would come to surface. And still there were no photographs of the Dudley brothers and their famed waterfowling exploits. Then Archie Johnson and Bud Coppedge did some very creditable research for their book, *Gun Clubs and Decoys of Back Bay and Currituck Sound* (1991) and discovered there was no Lem Dudley. Lee's brother was actually named Leonard. Al-



Ruddy ducks shot by a group of sportsmen in the early 1900s. (Photo courtesy of New Bern—Craven County Library, the George Nicoll Collection.)

though they uncovered some remarkable photographs of the Dudleys and their hunting exploits, and despite the fact that all of their research material favored Lee Dudley as the make of the famed decoys, they would not make a firm conclusion that Lee Dudley was the maker of the celebrated Dudley decoys. Nevertheless, their Dudley research was extraordinary and was the highlight material of their book.

In recent years, Southern decoy authority, Dick McIntyre, published an article on Dudley decoys in *Decoy Magazine* and reaffirmed what Joel Barber had clearly stated in his 1934 book, *Wild Fowl Decoys*—Lee Dudley was the maker of the fabled decoys.

There were other ruddy duck decoy makers from the Currituck Sound area and the name Ned Burgess was well known before there were any publications on southern decoys. John Williams was also a recognized name.

In 1982, Neil Conoley did some groundbreaking research and published his book, *Water Fowl Heritage: North Carolina Decoys and Gunning Lore*. Conoley gave the North Carolina ruddy duck maker, Alvirah Wright, his just recognition. In recent auctions, Alvirah Wright ruddy ducks, in old repaint, have fetched extraordinary prices of over \$30,000.

In the 1993 Sept/Oct edition of *Decoy Magazine*, Dick McIntyre resolved some of the confusion amongst lesser known ruddy duck decoy makers of Currituck Sound. For years, decoy ruddy ducks made by Bailey Barco and Charles Waterfield were confused with those made by John Williams.

The bottom line is this: Ruddy duck decoys from any historic hunting area are rare and highly sought after. Most of them are quite old, very primitive, and are now prized as folk art. More ruddy decoys have been found in the Currituck Sound area than in any other region in the nation. No place in North American waterfowling history holds the ruddy duck in such high esteem as did the Curituck gunners of the past and the decoy collectors of today.

Why Are Ruddy Ducks Called Boobie Ducks?

I can only speculate they were called "boobies" because they are a rather comical bird. During courtship, the males engage in bizarre posturing to attract the female.

When flying, their small wings stroke so fast they have been know to resemble bumblebees. Some hunters call it such names as "bumblebee coot." In order to fly they must patter on top of the water until airborne. Since they will not take off over land or downwind, they will often fly directly over a hunter and his boat during attempts to escape. This makes them appear to be "dumb as a coot."

Webster's Unabridged Dictionary lists several "also known as" names for the ruddy duck—spoonbill, ruddy diver, stifftail, fool duck and hardhead—but does not cite their famous nickname of "boobie" or "booby duck."

The Audubon Water Bird Guide by Richard H. Pough (1951), page 116, states, "The ruddy's tameness or stupidity, which makes it easy to shoot, probably accounts for part of its enormous decline in abundance." Perhaps the nickname "boobie" comes from this?

7.814

Friday, May 17, 2002 ougaberger Basket Bingo for the Havre de Grace Decay Museum

To be held at the Patiston Prehall at 2pm Pilled baskets, affice, and door prizes refreshments will be cold. Basket sponsors, donations to be used at basket fillers and door prizes will be greatly approximed. Takets are evaluable for \$12.00 per percent and three for each regular

A decoy carving class for students ages 12 to 18 years old angle by award winning deconstruct carver left Moone. Solor the Helded Decoy Monematika by local spectruct and A to Council. The workshop will be conducted at the second Masserm located at 215 Glass Street as Have de Street, Mission of Farls and Bergerm with the Have de Street, Masserm located at 215 Glass Street as Have de

22 19 through Standay July 21 Decay & Wildlife Art Show by the Classical New York. Saturday June 1, 2002 Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Volunteer and Carver Appreciation Picnic o be Held at the American Legion Post 47 Pavilion atering by Carl's Contact the museum for more infor-

Ruddy Duck Decoys Bailey Barco Joe Hayman John Williams Mary James Farm

Photos courtesy of Don Walston

CALENDAR

May

Friday, May 17, 2002 Longaberger Basket Bingo for the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

To be held at the Fallston Firehall at 7pm. Filled baskets, raffles, and door prizes refreshments will be sold. Basket sponsors, donations to be used as basket fillers and door prizes will be greatly appreciated. Tickets are available for \$12.00 per person and include three for each regular game.

Friday May 31 - Sunday June 2 The Second Annual, Waterfowl Weekend 2002

Hosted by: Kent Island Carvers, Horsehead Wetland Center, and Queen Anne's County Arts Council. Art auction May 31 at 7pm, free admission at Queenstown American Legion. Exhibits and events at Bay County Moose Lodge, Sat. 10 am to 5pm and Sun. 10am to 4pm. Admission \$5.00. For more information contact Al Wayson 410-643-7226 or Tom Rohe at 410-643-2116.

June

Saturday June 1, 2002 Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Volunteer and Carver Appreciation Picnic

To be Held at the American Legion Post 47 Pavilion Catering by Carl's Contact the museum for more information at (410)939-3739

Wednesday June 12,2002 "Grasses of the Chesapeake Bay" by DNR Specialist Julie Bortz

To be held at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Learn about Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) of the Chesapeake Bay. Julie will discuss the various species of grasses, their importance to the ecology of the bay and the history of their decline. She will continue her discussion with an overview of the efforts being made to reestablish the SAV's through various DNR and private efforts. Julie will share slides and if all goes well may be able to bring grass samples and perhaps take us on a walk along the board walk to do some identification there as well. Join us at

June

7:00pm. Call the museum for more information at 410-939-3739.

July

Mondays 12:30 to 3:30pm July 8 through August 12 Summer Youth Carving Classes

A decoy carving class for students ages 12 to 18 years old taught by award winning decorative carver Jeff Moore. The fee is \$30.00 per student (includes a one year membership to the HdeG Decoy Museum). All supplies are included in the fee and are underwritten by local sponsor's including the Harford County Arts Council and the Maryland Arts Council. The workshop will be conducted at the Decoy Museum located at 215 Giles Street in Havre de Grace, MD. This is a partnership program with the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation. Call the Recreation Department at 410-638-3528 to register.

Friday July 19 through Sunday July 21 The 34th Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Show by the Thousand Islands Museum of Clayton, New York.

Exhibits, auction and contests to be held at the Clayton, NY, Recreation Park Arena. Be sure to contact the Thousand Islands Museum of Clayton, PO Box 27, 403 Riverside Drive, Clayton, NY 13624. (315)686-5794 or fax (315) 686-4867 or timuseum@gisco.net

August

Monday August 5 through Friday August 9, Chesapeake Arts Summer Center Classes

A program sponsored by the Ward Foundation at Salisbury University. Classes include "Carve and Paint A Kestrel" with Bob Guge and "Carve and Paint an Eastern Bluebird" with Ernie Muehlmatt. For registration/housing and meals information call (410) 742-4988 x 110.

Weekend Carving Demonstrations

at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

| Sat. | May 4 | Festival - Bill Collins | | June 15 June 16 | Mike Affleck Joe Cook | Sat. July 13 OPEN Sun. July 14 Bill Meyers |
|------|--------|----------------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Sun. | May 5 | Festival - | Juii. | June 10 | JUC COUR | Suit. July 14 Din Meyers |
| | | Bill Collins | Sat. | June 22 | Bill Meyers | Sat. July 20 Joe Cook |
| | | | Sun. | June 23 | Jim Pierce | Sun. July 12 Barb Wachter |
| Sat. | May 11 | Barb Wachter | | | | |
| Sun. | May 12 | Frank Muller | Sat. | June 29 | John Nickle | Sat. July 27 Mike Gleason |
| | | | Sun. | June 30 | Mike Gleason | Sun. July 28 Leonard Burcham |
| Sat. | May 18 | John Ingoglia | | | | , |
| Sun. | May 19 | Mike Affleck | Sat. | July 6 | OPEN | If you are interested in |
| | | | Sun. | July 7 | City of | becoming a weekend |
| Sat. | May 25 | Leonard Burcham | | | Havre de Grace | carver on any of the |
| Sun. | May 26 | Frank Muller | | | July 4th | OPEN dates, please |
| | | | | | Celebration | contact Pat Vincenti at |
| Sat. | June 8 | Charlie Bryan | | | | (410) 734-6238. |
| Sun. | June 9 | Steve Lay | | | | 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 nonmembers, 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 | FOR SALE: Chesapeake Bay Decoys many makers call Jim at (703) 768-7264 or potomacduck@aol.com | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| the collection. All pieces signed. All in mint condition. Telephone (703) 524-8298 and/or e-mail aberdeene1@aol.com | FOR SALE: 16 framed MD Duck Stamp prints 1974 thru 1989, 7 pencil-7 color remarques. \$20,000.00. Call (410) 939- 4536. | | |
| 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: Duck Stamp prints. Sets of Marylands with original First, some remarques. Feds., 1st of States. Call (410) 321-6628. | | |
| 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. | | | |

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