

# The Canvasback

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

Winter 2003  
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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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### ABOUT THE COVER AND FEATURE STORY

Celebrating our friend. Jim Pierce recently took a temporary retirement from the museums Board of Directors to enjoy more time with his family and especially his delightful grandson. Jim is one of the museum's founders, past Board Chairman, Honorary Festival Chairman (Carver) and long standing Festival Committee Chairman. Although Jim is not attending meetings this year he has been very busy painting the museums 2002 Black Ducks and building new exhibit cases in the Carver's Gallery. Many thanks are extended to Jim Pierce, his sister, also a board member, Mert Street and Jim's family for their unwavering support over these many years.

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### ON THE COVER

Celebrating our friend,  
Jim Pierce.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Members and Friends,

The prolonged freeze has brought a new beauty and wonder to the Flats. We've seen an exciting variety of birds we missed last year. Highlights include a pair of Canvasbacks, that appear to have settled here and a pair of Golden Eagles that have been perching high in the trees between the museum and the Bayou the last two days. Ice flows over the Flats and on the few calm evenings we've had, the fiery colors of the sunset glow across the sky and water playing games of light and shadow for our evening entertainment.

In this issue of the Canvasback we recap for your interest the statistical results of last years many projects and events. More importantly we pay tribute to one of the museums prominent Founders. Jim Pierce is a founding father of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and a true bridge between the carvers of old and the contemporary "youngsters" of today. Jim Tribble's story, shares with us the insights of Jim Pierce's history of carving and his work with the museum.

Please make note of our request for Festival Auction Decoys, carved pieces for the Festival's Carving Competition and the new event an Antique Decoy Competition. We are working hard to make this the best Festival ever!

Sincerest Regards,

Debra L. Pence  
Executive Director

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Havre de Grace Decoy Museum  
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*From  
the  
President*



Dear Museum Member,

***Happy New Year!***

The past year has been both challenging and rewarding for the Museum. Our board members have worked diligently with staff and volunteers to assure that each event the Decoy Museum hosts can be, and is improved upon.

The beginning of a New Year is always exciting. Each Board Committee is faced with new challenges as well as completing projects already started.

With the help of our director, and curator and other staff, new focus will be placed on our Flyways Exhibit and finishing our exhibit cases on the second floor.

New Board Committees reviewed our by-laws and gave input to our 2003 budget. As a result, one of the areas identified to receive special attention would be the maintenance of our buildings and grounds.

Please remember to visit and support our museum as often as possible. Your ideas and input are always welcome.

Sincerely,

Patrick S. Vincenti  
President, Board of Directors

Tax deductible contributions can be made to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. The museum was incorporated in 1981 as a non-profit organization 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.

PHOTO COURTESY HDG DECOY MUSEUM



*Jim Pierce, the unofficial mayor of Havre de Grace, the self-proclaimed "decoy capitol of the world," pictured with a pair of wood ducks in his workshop.*

# Jim Pierce

## A Havre de Grace Sportsman, Waterfowl Historian and Decoy Maker

by James L. Trimble

The village of Havre de Grace, Maryland is situated on the shoreline of the Susquehanna River where it meets the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. Over the course of centuries this river has silted the bay, forming a wide expanse of shallow water, an area comprising over 25,000 acres, known as the Susquehanna Flats. This famous waterfowling area, rich with farm land nutrients, grew thick with wild celery grasses, attracting large numbers of diving ducks, particularly the canvasback and the redhead, to this winter time habitat.

Market hunting by local watermen provided a livelihood for the local economy from the early to mid-1800's until the practice was outlawed in 1918. Sports with easy rail access and an abundance of kills established Havre de Grace as one of the greatest gunning meccas on the East Coast. Sinkbox shooting, a popular method of hunting on the Upper Bay, was practiced extensively by both market and sport gunners until it was outlawed in 1933. Large rigs of 500 or more decoys were not uncommon. This great demand for huge quantities of decoys provided opportunity for income, so many men started producing wooden birds.

Decoy making on this part of the Chesapeake Bay has flourished since prior to the Civil War. Tens of thousands, most solid-bodied with rounded bottoms and painted eyes, have been made. The greatest percentage of these decoys are canvasbacks; their real-life counterparts, when harvested, sold for nearly twice as much as any other duck.



PHOTO COURTESY HDG DECOY MUSEUM



*Pierce applies the colors on one of his decoys, then sits it on a rack to dry.*

James "Jim" Pierce, one of six children, was born in Havre de Grace in 1934, the first year that restrictions on sinkbox shooting was implemented. His father, a transplant from Nova Scotia, moved to the area after World War I, eventually working 47 years for the Pennsylvania Railroad, and married into a local family, the Fultons, who were all avid hunters.

Sul Fulton, Jim's uncle, hunted and trapped in the winter. He introduced his 13-year-old nephew, Jim, to the joys of waterfowl shooting. They mostly shot canvasbacks and redheads and occasionally a few blackheads. Their blinds were located on the Susquehanna's Old Maids Island, three miles north of the Bay. The decoys in their rig came from the gunning scow, "King Tut", where his uncle lived.

"Most of the community hunted and they all had large rigs of old decoys," Pierce recalls. He purchased his first shotgun, a Fox 12-gauge double-barrel model, at age 14, not long after his uncle "hooked" him on waterfowl hunting.

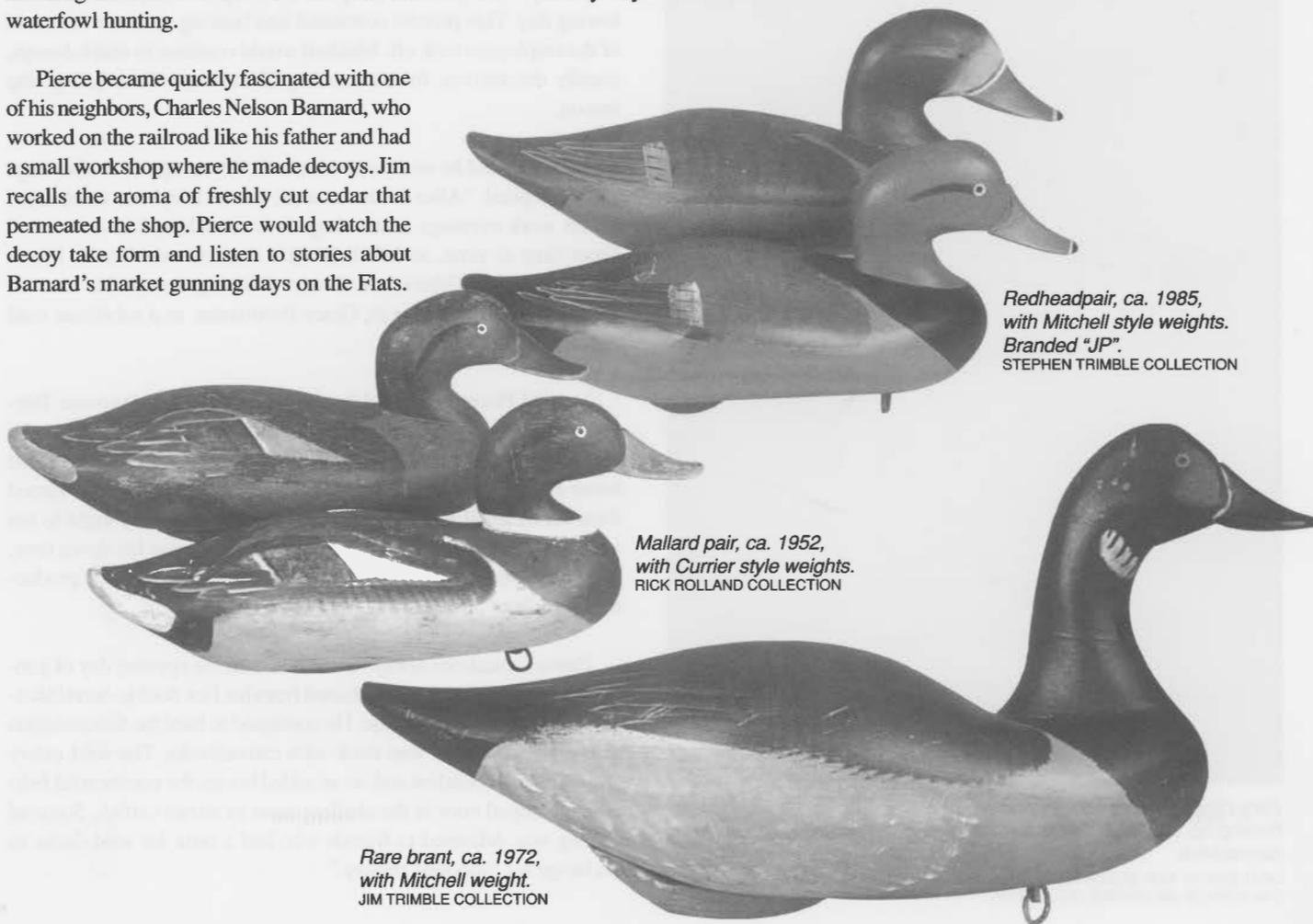
Pierce became quickly fascinated with one of his neighbors, Charles Nelson Barnard, who worked on the railroad like his father and had a small workshop where he made decoys. Jim recalls the aroma of freshly cut cedar that permeated the shop. Pierce would watch the decoy take form and listen to stories about Barnard's market gunning days on the Flats.

Another legendary decoy maker, Bob McGaw, lived across the alley from his Fulton grandparents. The Fultons maintained a large garden, some of it on McGaw's property. "We all worked the garden and put up the produce," Pierce said. There was also ample time to visit McGaw's shops- one to make the decoys and the other to apply the paint. McGaw was the first local decoy maker to use a lathe to turn his bodies. Pierce's childhood trips into McGaw's shops were not fully appreciated until he developed an interest in waterfowling. Now realizing the gunners' needs for decoys, he could see firsthand the lathe's impact and looked upon the row after row of finished stools with new awareness.

The local undertaker, Madison Mitchell, also produced decoys with the help of a lathe. Mitchell hired locals, mostly teenagers, to assist him with the production. As a young teenager Pierce began hanging around Mitchell's shop, sweeping floors, running errands and watching the crew painstakingly fashion decoys. At that time Mitchell's shop produced about 3000 decoys a year.

While in high school, as summertime help, Pierce ran a bandsaw and lathe, cutting and turning bodies in Mitchell's shop. He also stripped cripples by soaking the old decoys in lye while donning rubber gloves and rain gear. Mitchell painted every new decoy; the helpers, including Elmer Simperts and Jim Currier, repaired and repainted the cripples. During the school year Pierce also worked for Currier and Paul Gibson, prolific decoy makers in their own right.

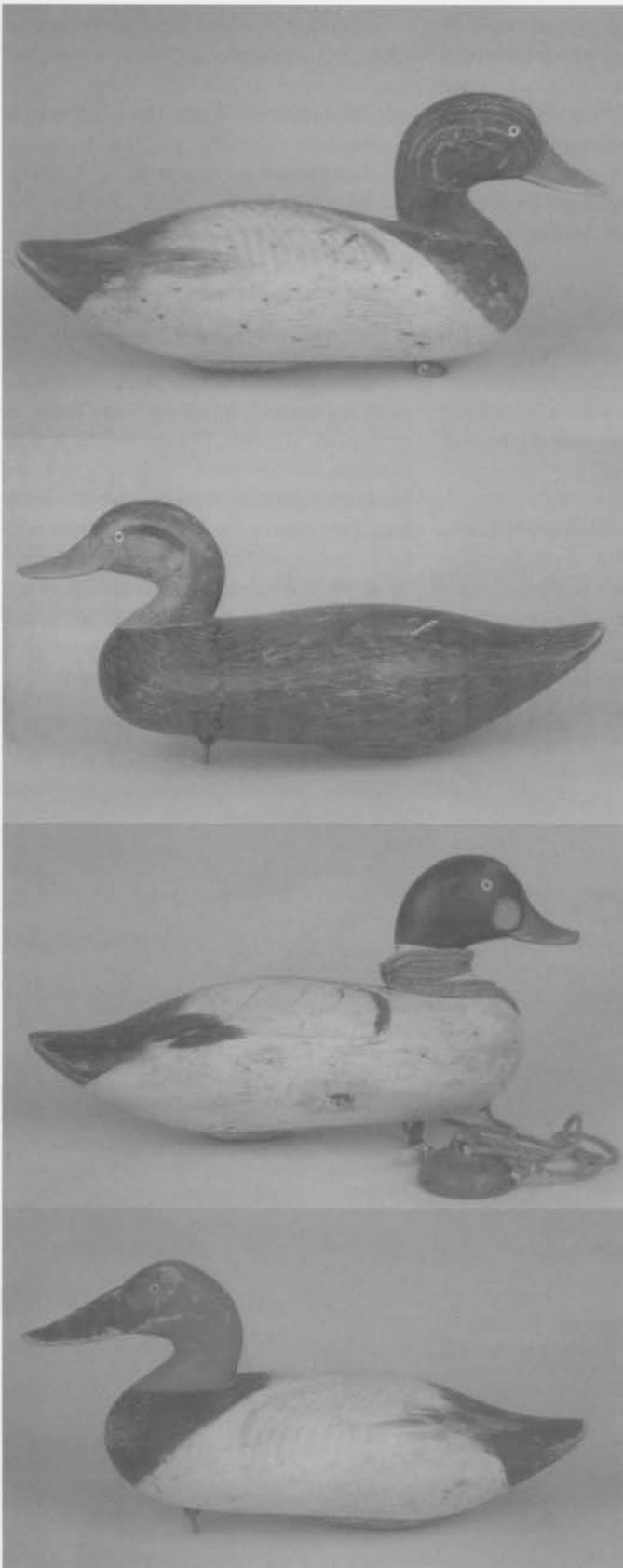
When fall arrived Pierce hunted with some of his co-workers, including Harry Jobes, as well as Jim's brother, Steiner. No blinds were available, so they would body boot or bushwhack, two popular manners of hunting in the area. Pierce made his own decoys from bodies he turned on Mitchell's or Gibson's lathes. He carved the heads using Mitchell patterns. Since he didn't like the way the anchor strings got caught on Mitchell's triangular weights, he cast his own using Currier's pattern.



Redhead pair, ca. 1985, with Mitchell style weights. Branded "JP". STEPHEN TRIMBLE COLLECTION

Mallard pair, ca. 1952, with Currier style weights. RICK ROLLAND COLLECTION

Rare brant, ca. 1972, with Mitchell weight. JIM TRIMBLE COLLECTION



Early Pierce gunners with Jim Currier weights from an Anne Arundel County hunting rig, ca. 1952. Top to bottom, bluebill, blackduck, goldeneye and canvasback.

GOLDENEYE AND BLACKDUCK, RICK ROLLAND COLLECTION. BLUEBILL AND CANVASBACK JIM TRIMBLE COLLECTION

By 1952 Pierce had a workshop in his backyard; hunters were already expressing an interest in his birds. That first year he got an order for 100 canvasback decoys at \$3.00 each. He scavenged the wood and used Mitchell's lathe to turn the bodies. He traded Mitchell labor for the privilege. This arrangement was fine with his mentor, as Mitchell had all the orders he could fill. Many of the employees moonlighted, repairing and refurbishing area rigs. Smiling at the memory, Pierce noted that \$300 was a ton of money for a high school kid in those days.

After he graduated from high school in 1953, Pierce began working full time for Mitchell. The decoy calendar generally started in February, after hunting season, when Mitchell began carving heads. Blocks were sawed in late spring, but he usually waited for the summer help to turn and finish the bodies. Around mid-August it was time to paint the decoys, a process that continued until the start of hunting season in November.

The decoys were primed in one room, then moved generally 100 at a time to the paint room. Usually three painters sat around a table, passing the decoy by the head, round robin, as each color was applied. In most cases Mitchell applied the feather paint. Mitchell would then pass the decoy back so the head could be painted. Holding the wet decoy by the bill, the head was painted, the bird was placed in a rack and the bill paint applied. The crew continued working until all of the day's decoys were completed. The eyes were painted the following day. This process continued into hunting season when most of the employees took off. Mitchell would continue to make decoys, usually decoratives, for the ensuing Christmas holiday gift-giving season.

How long did he work with Mitchell? "From age 14 to about age 30," he replied. "After I went to work for the telephone company, I would work evenings in his shop. It is something I loved to do." From time to time, as Mitchell's job demands slackened, Pierce worked for both Gibson and Currier finishing decoys. He also assisted Currier, the Havre de Grace Postmaster, as a substitute mail carrier.

In 1954 Pierce was hired by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company (C&P). For the next 35 years, except for a short stint in the Army, he worked as a cable splicer out in the field. He hauled home old discarded cedar utility poles, cut them to size, and turned them on Mitchell's or Gibson's lathes. He would carry eight to ten roughed-out heads to work and whittle them during his down time. The heads were sanded at the end of each workday. His total production was about 500 decoys a year.

Pierce's vacations always coincided with the opening day of gunning season. He had now graduated from his Fox double-barrel shotgun to a Browning automatic. He continued to hunt the Susquehanna shoreline, as the river was thick with canvasbacks. The wild celery grass was still abundant and, as an added bonus, the commercial fishermen dumped corn in the shallow areas to attract catfish. Some of his bag was delivered to friends who had a taste for wild ducks in exchange for "shooting money."

Harry Lingenfelter, a Navy motor mac during World War II, was one of Pierce's regular hunting companions. He purchased an old Navy surplus metal lifesaving boat and asked Pierce and a few others for assistance in hauling it back to Havre de Grace. Gunning privileges were exchanged for help in "fitting out" the 30-odd-foot boat. Eventually a cabin with heat was added and a Grey Marine engine was overhauled. The boat was christened the "Iron Chief." A "whacken" boat was added to the rig and a bushwack license obtained. With his brother Steiner and childhood friend Jobes, Pierce was a part of a small group that bushwacked off the "Iron Chief" for the next 20 years.

In 1962 Pierce built his own lathe that turned a Mitchell-style body in about five minutes. He sold to area hunters and had lots of repeat business. Many of his sales were to local military stationed at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, and due to reassignments their reorders had to be shipped.

During one five or six-year period he shipped over 1000 decoys to a customer on the lower Potomac. He also recalled filling an order for blue-winged teal to a young hunter in Georgia who used them on a hunting trip to Texas. Another hunter who saw the teal placed an order for three dozen cinnamon teal. Pierce honestly told the customer that he couldn't help- he had no idea what a cinnamon teal looked like! Three days later an unsolicited box arrived at the front door. It contained a cinnamon teal packed on dry ice. Pierce eagerly filled the order and was rewarded with numerous requests for teal decoys from other Texas hunters.

As a field worker in the telephone company's Elkton office, Pierce spent a lot of time on Maryland's Eastern Shore. His easy-going nature and affable disposition resulted in numerous invitations from local farmers to hunt in their fields. A short distance from Havre de Grace, these fields attracted a multitude of the majestic Canada geese. When the Eastern Shore converted from grain to corn for its broiler industry, the Canada geese arrived in even greater numbers. Pierce still hunts these fields based on the friendships he developed many years ago.

Work requirements also sent him to southern Maryland, adjacent to the Potomac River, occasionally for two weeks at a time. "For some unexplained reason I was drawn to the river," he says. In addition to duck and railbird hunting, there were invitations for pheasant shooting from Oxen Run to Port Tobacco.

Pierce became aware of the value of old gunning decoys. He began collecting a few of the best examples by the various Upper Bay makers. He struck up a friendship with Norris Pratt, an avid early collector, who paid finder fees for any decoy purchased. Due to his broad based-interests, Pratt would purchase decoys from any region where Pierce was working.

Pierce was elected president of the Upper Bay Museum, located in the H.L. Harvey Fish House in North East, Maryland, a position he held for ten years. To assist in their fundraising efforts, Pierce prevailed upon Mitchell, Currier, the Ward brothers and other area makers to display and discuss their work.

Not long after, Pierce was approached by a group of Havre de Grace businessmen to assist in the opening of a waterfowling museum. In 1981 the first Havre de Grace decoy show was held with proceeds to benefit a new museum construction fund. Pierce was elected as the first president and served in that position for the next ten years. The fundraising efforts were successful, and with matching state grants, the museum was constructed and opened in 1986. Pierce has become known as the workhorse behind the museum's success, always willing to express an opinion on an old decoy and discuss the different aspects of the Upper Bay's waterfowling history.

This year's show will mark the 22nd anniversary of that initial fundraising effort. That alone is a testament to its success. Each show has an appointed Honorary Chairman, some contemporary and some deceased. Mitchell, Gibson, Currier and McGaw are just a few of the legendary carvers associated with the area who have served as Honorary Chairmen. Pierce was recognized as the festival's 1991 Honorary Chairman, not only for the quality of his decoys but for his contribution to the community.

Few of Pierce's contemporary decoys ever hit the water. Most are now made in matched pairs for eager collectors. The one-spindle lathe is no longer in use, replaced by a machine that turns 12 bodies at a time. His son, Charles, age 33, a gifted carver in his own right, now assists his father. Other young men have spent their summers in his shop, learning how to shape, carve and paint a decoy, much the same as Pierce did in Mitchell's shop so many years ago. Many of these young men now have their own decoy shops, producing solid bodied, round-bottomed decoys with painted eyes, as their mentor dose.

The body style, head pattern and paint application of Pierce's decoys are very similar to a Mitchell decoy, just as a Mitchell decoy was fashioned after the work of Sam Barnes and the Holly family, the originators of the Havre de Grace style. Since his contemporary decoys seldom hold an anchor line, Pierce has begun to use Mitchell's signature triangular weight. All are branded with "JP" for easy identification.

Collectors recognize that the style and quality of his Upper Bay decoys, along with his acute knowledge of area history, provide a strong connection to yesterday's by-gone era. Havre de Grace is touted by some as the "Decoy Capitol of the World." Jim Pierce is regarded by many as its unofficial mayor and ambassador of good will.

*This article was reprinted with the permission of Decoy Magazine, P.O. Box 787, Lewes, Delaware, 19958, (302) 644-9001*

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

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*Jim Pierce 1993*

# Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

215 Giles Street • Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078

## ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2002 - DECEMBER 31, 2002

### 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: 16,927

#### GENERAL VISITATION: 10,626

Adults:	3733	Members:	566
Children 9-18:	392	Gift Shop Only:	1507
Children 0-18:	368	Group Tours:	2472
Seniors:	1325	Other:	263

#### SPECIAL EVENTS VISITATION/PARTICIPATION: 5,827

Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival:	4,207
Carvers and Volunteers Appreciation Day:	48
Sporting Clays Shoot:	119
Duck Fair:	450 (est.)
Anniversary Dinner:	99
Candlelight Tour & Carvers Celebration:	800 (est.)
Hitchen's Opening Reception	104

#### MEMBERSHIP: 1147

Member Residence:

Maryland — 776

Mid-Atlantic States(VA, DC, NJ, NY, PA) — 264

Other U.S. States & Foreign Nations —107

#### VOLUNTEERS: 3592 hours of donated service

- 4 weekly admissions/gift shop volunteers
- 93 carving demonstrators
- 5 docents
- 121 special events volunteers

#### COLLECTIONS ACQUISITIONS

- 10 Gibson Decoys (donated by Karol Lynn Hitchens)
- Folk Art Decoy Postage Stamps (donated by Robert Miller)
- 2002 US Department of the Interior Duck Stamp (donated by A. Harry Oleynick, M. D.)
- John Holly Jr. Canvasback Decoy (donated by Dr. John Carriere)
- Canada Goose Slat Decoy (donated by J. C. Collins)
- Folk Decoys (donated by Kevin Peel)
- Oliver Steele Redhead Decoy (donated by Mildred Steele)
- "Stars & Stripes" Swan (donated by Bob Jobes)
- Lesser Scaup Decoy (donated by Bill Schaubert)

- 1957 Telephone Directory (donated by John A. and Vernioica A. Malchione)
- Photograph of R. M. Mitchell and Family (donated by Kit Mitchell)
- Ward Bros. Letters and Photographs (donated by Kathy Waterfield)
- Black & White Images of R. M. Mitchell (donated by Bob Booker)
- Black Duck Museum Decoy Prototype by Jim Pierce (Donated by Havre de Grace Carvers and Jim Pierce)
- Bob Litzenberg Sign (donated by Robert Litzenberg, Jr.)
- Various Library Materials (donated by Edward Cassedy)
- Library Materials (donated by Paul Jackson)

#### **PERMANENT EXHIBITS**

- Two new exhibit cases were built in the "Honoring the Masters Gallery"
- Three new painted signs were installed in the "Honoring the Masters Gallery"

#### **TEMPORARY EXHIBITS**

- Patrick Vincenti Decoys, Tools and Weights (January to August)
- Patrick and Jeannie Vincenti Gun Collection Exhibit (May to December)
- Mark Holecheck Canvasback Decoy Exhibit (May to December)
- 2002 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Poster Contest Exhibit (September)
- 2002 Honorary Duck Fair Chairman, William Veasey Exhibit (September)
- Chincoteague Exhibit (September to December)

#### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

- *Retriever Demonstrations* by Oakdale Retrievers of Church Hill, MD - Trainers and their dogs demonstrated skills and techniques of both verbal and non-verbal communication between the hunter and his working companion dog. (*May 2002 and September 2002*)
- *Wildfowl Presentation* by the Patuxent Research Center -as part of the Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival (*May 2002*)
- *Grasses of the Chesapeake Bay* by DNR Specialist Julie Bortz - Julie presented a discussion at the Decoy Museum of both native and introduced species of grasses; their environmental impact as well as wildlife habitat changes through the years (*June 2002*)
- *Punt Gun demonstration* by Vernon Bryant (*September 2002*)
- *"Scales & Tales"* by Rob Dyke of the MD State Forest and Park Service division of the MD Department of Natural Resources - Rob brought a fascinating display of endangered amphibians and reptiles to the Annual Duck Fair. (*September 14, 2002*)
- *Earth Day Program* - Museum director, Debra Pence manned an educational kiosk and held discussions with the students at the North Harford High School Earth Day Event. (*April 2002*)
- *Outreach Program* Members of the board and staff of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum presented carving demonstrations and were available to talk to the public at an event sponsored by the Harford Mall. (*April 2002*)

#### **CARVING CLASSES AND OTHER HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES**

- 17 individuals participated in weekly adult carving classes that provided an opportunity for carvers to hone their skills under the guidance of award-winning carver and published author Jeff Moore
- 10 students participated in a six-week session of summer youth carving classes taught by Ned Mayne. He was assisted by local carvers Leonard Burcham, Jeanne Hiss and Joe Cook.
- 42 high school students participated in the 2002 Decoy and Wildlife Festival Poster Contest
- 200 visitors interacted with the MD Jr. Duck Stamp Exhibit activities during the Duck Fair
- 25 adults and children participated in the Decoy Painting Workshop led by Noble Mentzer during the Annual Duck Fair.

#### **DOCENT LEAD PROGRAMS**

- 934 adults and seniors participated in group tours
- 1538 school children participated in programs consisting of group tours, carving demonstrations, craft projects, and video presentations

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

- 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival
- 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteers & Carvers Appreciation Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Sporting Clays Event

- 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Duck Fair
- 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner
- Candlelight Tour and Sale and Carver Celebration

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**TOTAL ASSETS: \$1,164,055.05**

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

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL: \$1,164,055.05**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES: \$64,458.36**

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

**TOTAL CAPITAL: \$1,099,596.69**

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

**2002 REVENUES: \$349,730.66**

Gift Shop	\$ 57,708.56	Sponsors	18,375.00
Decoy Festival	53,502.40	Grants	64,060.50
General Admissions	22,889.14	Private Donations	56,439.68
Memberships	16,705.00	The Canvasback	6,121.00
Raffles	8,585.00	Other Income	1,676.98
Educational Programs	9,445.00	Other Events	34,222.40

**2002 EXPENSES: \$294,047.16**

Administration	\$ 64,857.13	Collections	16,632.53
Gift Shop	54,792.49	Other Events	56,140.98
Maintenance	34,258.10	Educational Programming	25,624.21
Decoy Festival	22,067.56	Exhibits	2,796.97
Publications	16,877.19		

*This statement is not audited.*

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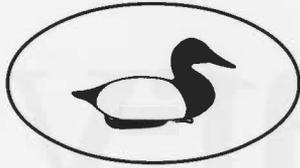
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# Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Membership Information

**Please complete the following information and return with payment to:**  
Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, 215 Giles St., Havre de Grace, MD 21078

New Membership

Renewed Membership

Gift Membership

Gift From: \_\_\_\_\_

## TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Individual (\$25)

Family (\$40)

Business (\$100)

Life (\$500)

Student (\$15)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like information on volunteer opportunities.

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

### STUDENT\* or INDIVIDUAL

Free admission to museum for member  
One year subscription to *The Canvasback*  
Advance invitations to special events  
10% discount off gift shop purchases

\* full-time only, enclose copy of I.D. with this form

### FAMILY\*

Free admission to museum for immediate family  
One year subscription to *The Canvasback*  
Advance invitations to special events  
10% discount off gift shop purchases

\* 2 adults & children 18 & under residing at same address

### BUSINESS

Free admission to museum for individual business patron  
10 Free admission passes to the museum  
One year subscription to *The Canvasback*  
Advance invitations to special events  
10% discount off gift shop purchases

### LIFE

Free lifetime admission  
Nameplate on Life Membership Plaque  
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Lifetime subscription to *The Canvasback*  
Advance invitations to special events  
10% discount off gift shop purchases

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Card Issued \_\_\_\_\_ Canvasback \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

# Anniversary Dinner Review

Story & Photo by Kay Morrison

Ed Watts was in charge of this year's Anniversary Dinner, which was held on Saturday, November 2. He arranged for Bob Chance to be the speaker for the evening. Mr. Chance offered very interesting information on the development of the Greenway Program. Over the next few years, the Greenway is expected to develop more trails and will offer walkers and hikers of all ages unique opportunities to discover more of our native wildlife, both plants and animals.

The Bayou Restaurant was the site of this year's Anniversary Dinner. As always, Lou Ward and his capable staff provided our ninety-nine guests with a delicious meal and gracious service.

After dinner, the prototype of this year's museum decoy, the Black Duck, was presented to Executive Director, Debra Pence. Plaques were presented to Charles Jobs, Frank Muller, Steve Lay, Vernon Bryant and Vernon Bryant, Jr. in appreciation for making this year's birds. Jim Pierce painted all of the birds and he also received a plaque for all of his contributions to the Decoy Museum. The number one decoy was auctioned and was awarded to Al Burdette. The remaining twenty-four decoys were drawn by lottery and sold for \$250 each. There are only fifty birds produced each year. The remaining decoys are sold at the museum. Several collectors have been reserving a certain number for each year to build their own collection of these very special decoys.

Thanks to a number of very generous carvers and collectors, we were able to offer a unique auction during the evening, with Allen Fair serving as auctioneer. Charlie Bryan, John Ingoglia, Harry V. Shourds, Capt. Bill Collins, Charlie Joiner, Gary Ross, Mike Affleck, Bill Schaubert and Allan Schaubert all donated pieces for the auction. The Decoy Museum is very appreciative of their continued support.

Steve Lay, Kenny Lay, Jeanne Hiss, Ed Watts, Freeman Wright and Mindy Elledge contributed items, along with a few from the

Gift Shop, that were available as oyster can raffle prizes. Many guests left the dinner with a very nice prize, or two.

The evening is always a time when old friends get together to celebrate the "life" of the Decoy Museum. It is also becoming an evening when new members join in the fun and get to meet some of the long time great carvers, collectors and friends of the museum. Thank you to all of the Board members, members and other guests who contributed to the success of the evening.



# Candlelight & Carver Celebration Review

Story & photos by Kay Morrison

Michael Gleason, Jeanne & Warren Hiss, Nelson Mengel, Paul & Debbie Shertz and Rich Moretz were on hand to greet our visitors for the 30<sup>th</sup> Candlelight Tour of Historic Havre de Grace on December 8, 2002. The carvers displayed and sold their works on the first floor again this year. This is a great opportunity for tour guests to visit with carvers. We could accommodate several more carvers, so anyone who might be interested in exhibiting next year can contact the museum to be invited.

Members came in early in the day to claim their one day only 25% discount in the Gift Shop. Quite a few new items were offered to these early holiday shoppers. Throughout the day, tickets for the tour were sold at such a pace that we had to call Madelyn M. Shank, one of the tour organizers, to make extra deliveries of tickets. She made sure we didn't run out!

Very sincere thanks go to Ken Lay, who manned the front desk, GeorgAnn Pabst, who greeted our visitors, Perry Hargis, who gave his famous tour of "Gunning the Flats" and to Carolyn Hargis and Elly Coale who served lunch for the carvers and volunteers. This is an enjoyable day for all of us. Come join us next year!

Eight o'clock was the time set for the drawing of the Fall Raffle winners. Jay Freeman Wright had been on hand during the tour, greeting people who visited the upstairs gallery. As raffle chairman, it was his privilege to call the winners. Rev. Richard Thompson, of Aberdeen, was the lucky winner of the Bryan Swan. Steven Allen, of Hampstead, won the Vincenti half size, and Robbi Baker, Jr. won the miniature

by Jim Pierce with a ticket his grandmother bought for him. Pictures of the winners are in this issue. One thousand two hundred and seventy-four tickets were sold. The museum is most grateful to all who bought tickets and to the carvers who donated the beautiful decoys.



*J. Freeman Wright tried to sell raffle tickets to Paul Shertz! He did sell the winning ticket that night, though!*



*Jeanne & Warren Hiss enjoying our visitors.*



*Michael Gleason set up a very attractive display of his work.*



*Rich Moretz, carver, and Gift Shop attendant, Noel Noel, packing up after a long pleasant day.*

# Swan Raffle Winners



Richard Thompson and his wife won the full size Swan by Mr. Charlie Bryan. Reverend Thompson bought his winning ticket the night of the Candlelight Tour.



Steven Allen of Hampstead, MD, holds the half size Swan by Patrick Vincenti.



Although we couldn't get Robbi Baker, Jr. to smile for the camera, he really liked the miniature Swan by Jim Pierce. His grandmother bought the winning ticket for him.

# Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Gift Shop

The Decoy Museum Gift Shop is gearing up for a great spring cleaning and face lift. We'll be looking for and adding a wide variety of educational materials, kids environmental and art activities kits and books, locally crafted items representing hunting, wildlife art work, and bay inspired fine arts of various mediums. If you have insights or leads on merchandise that would compliment our museum's mission and be enticing to our membership and visitors please call Debra or Mindy at the museum at 410-939-3739. *Look for news of our Bay Authors Book Signing Day next fall!*

## IRA D. HUDSON *and Family* *Chincoteague Carvers*

By Henry H. Stansbury

Reviewed by James L. Trimble



Author Henry Stansbury with Hudson Decoy

Henry Stansbury's book delivers the goods to the decoy community where a good book on Hudson and his family of carvers has been long overdue. Ira Hudson was Virginia's best known decoy maker who made waterfowl lures of rounded gentle flowing

lines during the first and second quarters of the last century. Many writers, including Fleckenstein, Mackey, Bull, Starr, Reiger, Kangas, and Berkey have included Ira Hudson in the regional chapters of their respective decoy books. This author's book is the first to dig into the human side of the man, his sons, and the many styles of the decoys that they produced. Stansbury, who has studied Hudson and his family's work for over a fifteen-year period, collaborates with others including family members, neighbors, and decoy collectors, then weaves together a well-written, well-documented, and well-photographed presentation piece.

Hudson left many unanswered questions when he died. There was no biography of his work, no records of any transactions, no chronicle of contribution in the local newspaper, and no interview by an interested writer prior to death in 1949. Even this craftsman's decoys left no paper trail, as each was individually made with out benefit of pattern. Lack of source causes insurmountable problems for writers, problems that several knowledgeable East Coast Hudson collectors had experienced many years earlier as they assembled data for a book that was never written. Stansbury was able to gain access to their valuable research as well as access to family members who were documenting the Hudson family.

The author mines gold when family members share insightful nuggets of knowledge about a loving and creative family patriarch, who could barely read or write, raising a large family under harsh economic, rural and isolated conditions. Stansbury delivers their individual stories like a well-woven comfortable piece of fabric. There is a story of the family Crèche composed of Jesus, Joseph and Mary, the Wise Men, and all the farm animals, carefully carved and painted by Hudson. Or the story of Hudson making children's toys; jewelry boxes, dollhouses, and baby boxes for the girls and boat models and wooden toys of various descriptions for the boys. In addition to boats and decoys, there are stories about Hudson building or making everything from chicken houses to gun-tocks to clothespins. Stansbury enlists the help of a long time Chincoteague Island school teacher's chronology of local history to frame Hudson family stories told. The author effectively opens a window on island development at the turn of last century - the general store, the blacksmith shop, the Western Union office, the seafood wharves, etc, and then places Hudson through family and neighbor's stories as well as public documentation.

Shared information from the would-be storywriters included taped interviews from 20 years or so ago with older individuals, who had dealt with Hudson, purchasing boats and decoys. Again Stansbury mines gold, as these interviews are full of observations and events by people who had spent time with Hudson. Other shared interviews were with Hudson's adult children Norman and Delbert, both deceased long before the author picked up pen. These interviews are rounded out by the author's interviews with Hudson's grandchildren. Stansbury, to his credit, does not try to blend the interviews, but lets each stand on its own, as the reader develops a persona image of Hudson the man, in his place of time and circumstance.

Stansbury uses an earlier quote from author/historian Henry Fleckenstein who describes Hudson's decoys as follows: "Ira Hudson was a commercial decoy maker in every since of the word, yet he was a creative genius turning out many different styles of decoys...look at them closely and it is easy to understand why so many collectors appreciate the outstanding work of Ira Hudson". In addition to the book's numerous black and white photos that support Hudson's life story, there are over 300 large color photos of Hudson duck, geese, and shorebirds, that include many made by sons Norman and Delbert. Stansbury chose, with commentary, to divide these chapters by species; i.e. black duck, canvasback, etc. This gives the reader, not only the opportunity to distinguish between father and sons' decoys, but the opportunity to compare and date numerous styles and paint patterns. The bluebill chapter alone has over 18 photos of Hudson ducks.

There is no question that Stansbury knows his ducks. This is an authoritative book that is well written by a man who had a passion for knowledge about a few decoys that he purchased and appreciated. Ira D. Hudson and Family is a good bang for the buck for the decoy collector's library.

Ira D. Hudson and Family, Chincoteague Carvers by Henry H. Stansbury, 160 pages, published by Decoy Magazine, Lewes Delaware, can be purchased in the museum's gift shop.

# Announcing the 10<sup>TH</sup> Annual R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Dinner



*Friday, March 14, 2003 at the Bayou Restaurant  
Route 40 Havre de Grace, Maryland*

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

*Larry J. Hindman, Waterfowl Project Leader, Wildlife and Heritage Services  
of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, will be the  
speaker for the evening.*

*As part of our program, twenty-five Canada Goose decoys from the  
last group made in R. Madison Mitchell's shop will be offered, by lottery,  
at \$500 each. Other interesting items will be offered at auction.*

*Your attendance will show support for the Endowment Trust 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 M Shank at 410-939-3947.*

## Calling All Carvers!

Join the carvers from many states as they compete in the Carving Competitions during the Festival, May 2, 3 & 4, 2003. 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.

# DECOY MAGAZINE

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- ✦ Photographs of over eighty decoys, many in full color

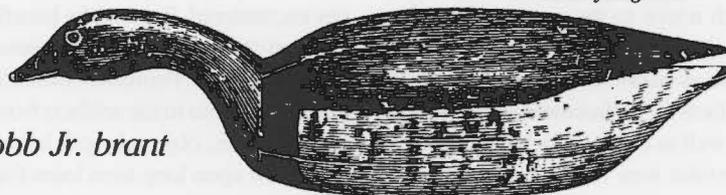
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*Nathan Cobb Jr. brant*

# Some Considerations Concerning Short-Term Museum Loans, When Used For Permanent or Long-Term Exhibits

*Diane A. Rees, Museum Curator*

One would not expect the majority of collectors to be informed about the general procedures, or indeed the difficulties that may be encountered, when museums borrow objects on a short-term basis. This brief article is therefore intended to present several points that ought to be considered, particularly when short-term loaned items are integrated within permanent displays.

First of all, it is necessary to define the parameters involved with the definition of "short-term" loan. Although each loan accepted into a museum must be accepted for a specified period of time, for the purpose of this article, the word "short-term" is used to refer to loans that have a length of less than five years.

In order to be able to manage collections proficiently, it is essential that museums maintain certain basic information on all loaned artifacts. It is crucial for the museum to account for all items within its care and to ensure that current details about the location and security of borrowed objects are adequately recorded. For legal reasons, the registration process also often entails taking photographs and monitoring the condition of the artifact while in museum custody. Furthermore, all loans must be accompanied by a loan agreement, which specifies the length of the loan and describes the items taken on loan. This document must be signed in duplicate by authorized parties of both the museum and the lender. Although in the past museums often accepted "indefinite" or "permanent loans", which meant that the loan registration process had to be completed on only one occasion, current practices no longer accept this standard, as it is easy to lose contact with the owner (it is the lender's responsibility to keep the museum notified of any changes in their address or ownership during the period of the loan). Loans are therefore now subject to fixed terms, which means that they need to be renewed on a regular basis, involving repetition of the registration process. The lender is therefore repeatedly burdened with filling out paperwork, in order to continue renewing his or her loan. When this methodology is applied to a sizeable number of individual short-term loans, administration may become somewhat time-consuming and costly for a non-profit organization such as a museum.

One of the most exasperating concerns transpires when loans are unavoidably recalled without much notice to the museum. This is likely to cause unsightly gaps within the permanent exhibit area, which obviously needs to be filled as soon as possible. Not only does the museum have to obtain suitable artifacts for replacement at such short notice (this can be both difficult as well as expensive), but the whole registration process for the new exhibit item has to be completed, prior to placing the new artifact on display.

Additional problems may also arise at the end of the loan period. For instance, if the item is no longer required for display purposes, and the museum wishes to return it, it is often the responsibility of the lender to collect the item. If he or she fails to reclaim the loaned material within a suitable period of time, the museum may need to charge the lender storage fees, due to storage space limitations. If the museum is unable to contact the lender, after a certain number of years, the materials are often considered an unrestricted gift to the museum. That item may subsequently be sold or auctioned at the museum's discretion. Further paperwork is required even when contact is made with the lender. The museum needs to obtain and retain written confirmation from the lenders that the objects have been received in a satisfactory state. Even this may not be the end of the procedure.

This, in fact, leads us to another very important matter that needs to be addressed when loaned items are accepted. Objects are potentially at a greater risk while on loan. Although all artifacts loaned are subject to the same standards of professional care and safekeeping in handling as the museum's permanent collections, and preventative measures may reduce the chances of mishap, many things can still go wrong. Objects can suffer damage or loss from perils such as fire, theft and vandalism. It is, however, standard procedure for the borrowing institution to take on the responsibility for insuring loaned objects. Insurance is, nevertheless, an expensive business and many museums have difficulty paying the premiums for adequate insurance coverage for their permanent collections, let alone for the loaned items. The exorbitant insurance premiums are paid in order to ensure that the museum is able to recuperate following a loss to their own property, rather than to compensate for damage to additional luxuries such as loaned artifacts. One solution may be for the lender to continue to insure the loaned item(s) under his or her individual insurance policy.

The aim of this article is certainly not to discourage short-term loans. Indeed, we as museums are extremely grateful to all those who choose to lend their objects, and thank them for both their cooperation and kindness. However, due to the great deal of time and effort involved with the registration process, as well as any related difficulties encountered, it would be beneficial for such loans to be utilized for short-term exhibitions, as opposed to integrating them within permanent displays. Permanent exhibitions require stability and it would be advantageous to use artifacts from either the museum's permanent collection (i.e., objects by gift, bequest, transfer, purchase or auction) or to draw upon long-term loans for this particular purpose.



Consignments Wanted  
for the  
22nd Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

**Decoy Auction**  
**Saturday, May 3, 2003 at 5:30 p.m.**

Havre de Grace High School Auditorium  
700 Congress Avenue Havre de Grace, MD

The Festival Committee is accepting consignments of quality decoys to fill 100 lots. The commission rate will be 10% from the buyer and 10% from the seller. All proceeds will benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. **Consignments will be received until March 21, 2003.** Please contact Diane Rees at the museum by phoning 410-939-3739.

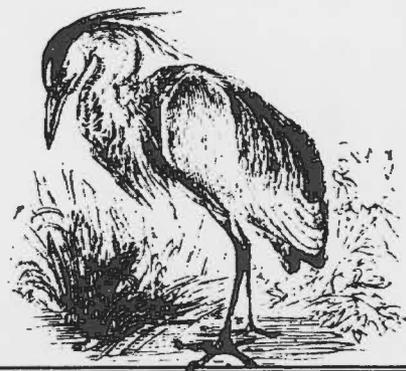
# Announcing the 22nd Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

## May 2, 3 & 4, 2003

### Honorary Chairman: Ned Mayne

Over 150 carvers, collectors and wildlife artists, carving competitions, antique decoy contest, retriever demos, live & silent auctions and more.. The whole family will enjoy the Festival!

Decoy Auction Saturday, May 3



### *The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Old Decoy Contest*

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Old Decoy Contest to be held in conjunction with the 2003 Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival will be held Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Middle School Gym. Entries will be accepted at the stage area from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. judging. Joe Engers, Editor & Publisher of *Decoy Magazine* will head up a three-member judge's panel. Participants must make a best faith effort to assure that all decoy entries were made prior to 1950. Each decoy will be limited to one category competition only. Matched pairs entered in other than the Matched Pair category will be considered as one entry. Competition decoys will be kept in a highly visible roped-off secure area and will not be handled by the public. A blue ribbon will be awarded for each of the following ten category winners. The three-judge panel will also select a best in show winner.

- |   |                                  |                              |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| *Best Upper Bay Hi-head   | *Best Jim Holly Decoy            | *Best Eastern Shore Bluebill |
| *Best Wood Wing Duck  | *Best Upper Bay Matched Pair     | *Best Chincoteague Merganser |
| *Best New Jersey Brant  | *Best Back Bay VA/NC Diving Duck | *Best Unknown                |
| *Best Upper Bay Canvasback – with old known market gunner, gunning yacht, or gun club brand |                                  |                              |

There will be no restrictions as to those who can participate. Any questions, please contact contest chairman Jim Trimble @ 703-768-7264 or [potomacduck@cox.net](mailto:potomacduck@cox.net)

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COLLECTORS**



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***(Best Western)***

***St. Michael's, MD***

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***Friday late afternoon/evening  
meeting & cookout***

***For more information contact***

***John Clayton 410-745-2955***

***John@njdecoys***

***or***

***Jim Trimble 703-768-7264***

***Potomacduck@cox.net***

***PUBLIC WELCOME  
Free Decoy Appraisals***

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Decoy Museum is  
Proud to Present**

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
SPORTING  
CLAY  
CLASSIC**

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**J&P Hunting Lodge, Inc.**

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# POSSUM POINT CLUB

## Tidal Potomac River

By James L Trimble

The Potomac was thick with migratory waterfowl, especially the diving ducks, as wealthy individuals were assembling early 20th century riverfront lands for purchase and/or lease for private gunning clubs. The Possum Point Club, with one-story clubhouse and vast shorelines, was one of those clubs.

The Potomac's Possum Point is a Virginia jut of land on the north side of Quantico Creek, twenty-five miles south of Washington, DC. This property was originally part of the Potomac's vast tobacco plantation lands that once flourished there. Possum Point was improved in the late 1800's with a six-mile long narrow gauge railroad, to haul iron pyrites from the nearby Cabin-Branch Mine. The narrow gauge railway with small coal fired engines carrying whimsical names of Virginia Creeper, Dewey and Dinky, connected to the RF&PRR and shipping facilities at Possum Point's deepwater Barrow Siding Docks. This ore hauling operation was ongoing from 1889 until it shut down in 1920. Today, Dominion Resources has a 650 acre power plant facility on the site with access from Possum Point Road that perpendicts East from U.S. Highway # 1, in Dumphries, VA.

This writer has found very little written about the gunning off of Possum Point. D'Anne Evan's Pictorial History of Prince Williams County book mentions the Possum Point Club as being owned by wealthy District of Columbia Sportsmen and shows 1948 photos of the narrow gauge railroad, hunt club, and boat house being removed, making way for the power plant. In August, 1992, then 82 year old Marvin Twiford, a guide at the Potomac's Deephole Club in Woodbridge, advised this writer that the Possum Point Club was comprised primarily of RF & P railroad officials, and their shore and offshore blinds ran from Quantico Creek at Dumphries to Wide Water. He also advised that the club caretaker was Reggie Waterfield from the Back Bay area along the Virginia/Carolina border. Waterfield was a part of a long line of guides that included Twiford, from Back Bay, who worked for Potomac gunning clubs.

81 year old Chester Bourne, a retired schoolteacher raised along the Potomac in the Dumphries area, recalls childhood memories of the Possum Point Club. As a kid, he worked with his dad Wallace, a waterman, who also worked as a pickup guide for the club. Other local watermen including the Dents, Cumberlands and the Sissons also worked as Club guides, "tending blinds". The club had shore



Russell Waterfield Decoys, circa 1930

and offshore blinds, and baited extensively. "I can remember the boats stacked high with corn" states Bourne. He also remembers the use of sink boxes, primarily doubles, to kill the diving ducks. When asked about the source of the ballast weight iron ducks, Bourne believes they were cast upriver at a foundry in Alexandria. He also remembers one blind that faced the creek, inside the Railroad Bridge, that was good shooting for mallards and other puddle ducks. "We all knew that these were railroad people and their guests with money" states Bourne. "Remember I was an impressionable kid working for my dad. What I remember best, are the posh railroad cars at the siding that housed the gunners, complete with porters to service their needs. I can remember the bright brass that adorned the cars, they must have polished brass three times a-day." It is believed that the club, with one story club house, caretakers house, and barn for a small farm operation, opened around 1920, maybe earlier, and shutdown sometime during WWII.

There are lots of Waterfields in the Back Bay area, but I had struck out on identifying Possum Point's Reggie Waterfield, the name Marvin Twiford had given me over ten years ago. This past June, Kroghie Andresen, a North Carolina decoy collector/historian contacted me to discuss the Back Bay guide migration to the Potomac. Andresen, who is working on a North Carolina waterfowling book, was able connect the dots between the Possum Point guide and his Back Bay family. He has shared the following:

Reggie (1896-1959) was the older of two Waterfield brothers; one following the other that worked at the Possum Point Club. Reggie replaced his younger brother Russell (1901-1948) as caretaker, for a short period of time only, sometime in the late 30's early 40's, after Russell, who had worked for the club for almost 10 years, developed a terminal illness. Reggie was the son-in-law of decoy carver and hunting guide John Williams, who had moved from Cedar Island to Munden Point, Virginia, where the two operated a battery rig. Reggie also worked several years as a guide at Back Bay's Pocahontas Fowling Club. Reggie and his brother Russell also guided for several seasons using large battery rigs in the Big Bay section of Back Bay. Both had previously worked as market gunners until federal law stopped them in 1918. These brothers are not related to the large clan of Knotts Island Waterfields (descendants of John Jehue Waterfield), but are descendants of Malachi James Waterfield (1832-1916) who moved



from the Eastern Shore of Virginia and settled on the Virginia end of Knotts Island.

Malachi made his living from two endeavors; cattle farming and market hunting. His real love was hunting waterfowl, which he did, from the 1870's until shortly before his death in 1916. The large fields of corn that were planted on the Morse Point Farm were used to feed the cattle and bait the sink box blind shooting locations. During the market hunting days from 1870 to 1918, Malachi and family members deployed numerous sink boxes on either side of the causeway between Back Bay and Currituck Sound. This gave them access to

both bodies of water. During this period it has been estimated that this family alone made up to 5,000 decoys. Malachi's decoys include canvasback, redhead and blackhead. Malachi's grandson Russell also made a large number of decoys, mostly over-sized, some for sale.

78 year old Reggie Waterfield, Jr. of Knotts Island, NC, as a young teenager, accompanied his dad Reggie Sr. and his Uncle Harold (Waterfield), on one of the trips to Possum Point, to help their brother Russell shut down, and move back home. In all probability, Russell's Possum Point decoys returned home with him and were absorbed into the Waterfield rigs. When questioned about his Uncle Russell's decoy production, Reggie produced Uncle Russell's early 1930's business card, advertising carpenter work and decoys. Reggie also confirms identification of Russell's decoys. The decoys are usually large bodied canvasbacks with board head, paint eyes, and Elizabeth City weights. Andresen justifies this identification with the number of these decoys in his collection that have shown up in our area. PDCA member Larry Klinger has one of these decoys in his regional canvasback collection. Partial text source & Waterfield decoy photo courtesy of Kroghie Andresen, Charlotte, NC.

This article was provided by Jim Trimble and the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association. If you live in or visit the Greater Washington D.C. area contact Jim about membership & meeting information. 703-768-7634 or [potomacduck@cox.net](mailto:potomacduck@cox.net).

## R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Dinner Auction, Friday March 14, 2003



*Decoys to be offered at the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Dinner, March 14, 2003.*

*Photo by D. A. Rees*

# CALENDAR

## Every Monday At The Museum

Every Monday morning 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Classes are conducted by award winning carver, Jeff Moore. All skill levels are invited. Contact the museum on Monday mornings for more detailed information. (410) 939-3739

## The Ward Foundation Education Series

Call the Ward Foundation for a complete listing of this year's class and workshop offerings. Call Salisbury University Education Department at (410) 742-4988 ext. 110

## March

### Friday, March 14, 2003

10<sup>th</sup> Annual R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Dinner Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace, MD. Support the art of decoy carving by attending this major fund raiser for the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment. The Endowment generously provides support to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum for the acquisition of artifacts and other special projects. The event is held at the Bayou Restaurant, located on route 40 in Havre de Grace, MD. From 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.. Cocktails (cash bar) at 6:00p.m., Dinner at 7:00p.m. For more information please call the museum at 410-939-3739.

### Saturday 15 and Sunday 16

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Maritime Art and Decoy Show, Bel Air Armory, Main Street, Bel Air, MD. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information and ticket prices please call 410-879-9292.

### Saturday 22

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Decoy Show and Sale. Held by the New Jersey Decoy Collectors Association. Parkertown Firehouse 830 Railroad Drive, Parkertown, NJ. 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. To benefit Tuckerton Seaport For more information Contact Clarence Fennimore at 609- 758-7272

### Saturday 22 and Sunday 23

30<sup>th</sup> Annual Lancaster County Wood Carving & Wildlife Art Show and Competition Millersville University Student Union Building, Millersville, Pa. The Lancaster County Woodcarvers offer hourly door prizes, competition, awards, demonstrations, and food. Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$3.00 donation. Charity raffle, Show theme "Decoy's" For more information or table space please call Terry Keemer at 717-464-0759 or Jack Kochan at 610-926-3692 or e-mail at pinefeathers@juno.com

## April

### Friday 4 and Saturday 5

East Coast Decoy Collectors Buy, Sell & Swap. St. Michaels Motor Inn (Best Western). See Advertisement in this issue!

### Saturday 12

Annual Gala and Maritime Auction. To benefit the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum. 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. call for prices and reservations 410-939-4800

### Saturday 19

Swan Harbor Farm Earth Day. 401 Oakington Road, Havre de Grace, MD. 11:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. Earth friendly activities all day. Call 410-939-6767

### Wednesday 23

Susquehanna Museum of Havre de Grace. Annual Dinner. 6:00p.m. at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace, MD. Annual Business and Social Meeting. Please call for prices and reservations 410-939-5780

### Friday 25

Annual Bull & Oyster Roast. 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Hutchins Park, Havre de Grace, MD. To benefit the Skipjack Martha Lewis and its education programs. For ticket information please call 410-939-4078.

## May

### Friday 2, Saturday 3 & Sunday 4

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival. To benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Havre de Grace High School, Middle School and Decoy Museum. Visit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's, 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival. Over 175 carver's and artist's work on exhibit and for sale. Activities for families and children including carving competitions, antique decoy competition, retriever demonstrations, arts and crafts activities for the children, silent and live auctions. Something for everyone! This is a busy week-end in Havre de Grace with events going on all over town! Ticket prices are very reasonable be sure to come check it out! Hours: Friday 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m. Call the museum for more information at 410-939-3739.

### Saturday 3

Antique Street Fair. 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. Franklin Street, in Havre de Grace, MD. For more information please call 410-939-3200

### Saturday 3

The Musical Mile of Havre de Grace. 5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. St. Johns and Washington Streets. Sponsored by HdG Arts Commission. For more information please call 410-939-2100.

### Sunday 4

Civil War Living History Days. Encampments, drills, firing demonstrations, period music and dance lots of activities to enjoy.

11:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. at Steppingstone Museum on Quaker Bottom Road in Havre de Grace, MD. For more information and admission prices please call 410-939-2299.

### Saturday 3 and Sunday 4

Reenactment of the British Attack on Havre de Grace (War of 1812) at The Susquehanna Museum and Lockhouse Grounds. Sat. 10:00a.m. until dusk and Sun. 10:00a.m. until 3:00p.m. Reenactment Programs, Musket Firing Demonstrations, Marching Drills and Tours and much much more. Please call 410-939-1873.

# Weekend Carving Demonstrations

at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

Sat. Jan. 4 Mike Gleason  
 Sun. Jan. 5 Mike Gleason  
 Sat. Jan. 11 OPEN  
 Sun. Jan. 12 Frank Muller  
 Sat. Jan. 18 John Ingoglia  
 Sun. Jan. 19 OPEN  
 Sat. Jan. 25 John Ingoglia  
 Sun. Jan. 26 Mike Affleck  
 Sat. Feb. 1 Mike Gleason  
 Sun. Feb. 2 Mike Gleason  
 Sat. Feb. 8 Barb Wachter  
 Sun. Feb. 9 Noble Mentzer  
 Sat. Feb. 15 Dave Walker  
 Sun. Feb. 16 Joe Cook  
 Sat. Feb. 22 Leonard Burcham  
 Sun. Feb. 23 Bryon Bodt  
 Sat. Mar. 1 Mike Gleason  
 Sun. Mar. 2 Mike Gleason  
 Sat. Mar. 8 Jeanne Hiss  
 Sun. Mar. 9 Barb Wachter  
 Sat. Mar. 15 Leonard Burcham  
 Sun. Mar. 16 Allan Schaubert  
 Sat. Mar. 22 Butch & Mary Carol Larrimore

Sun. Mar. 23 Bryon Bodt  
 Sat. Mar. 29 Dave Walker  
 Sun. Mar. 30 Joe Cook  
 Sat. April 5 Mike Gleason  
 Sun. April 6 Mike Gleason  
 Sat. April 12 Barb Wachter  
 Sun. April 13 Frank Muller  
 Sat. April 19 Jeanne Hiss  
 Sun. April 20 **CLOSED FOR EASTER**  
 Sat. April 26 Joe Cook  
 Sun. April 27 Mike Affleck  
**FESTIVAL WEEKEND**  
 Sat. May 3 Bill Collins & John Mitchell  
 Sun. May 4 Bill Collins & John Mitchell  
 Sat. May 10 Joe Cook  
 Sun. May 11 John Ingoglia (*MOTHERS DAY*)  
 Sat. May 17 Jeanne Hiss  
 Sun. May 18 Frank Muller  
 Sat. May 24 Butch & Mary Carol Larrimore  
 Sun. May 25 Robert Hess  
 Sat. May 31 Richard Moretz  
 Sun. June 1 OPEN  
 Sat. June 7 OPEN

Sun. June 8 John Ingoglia  
 Sat. June 14 Joe Cook  
 Sun. June 15 OPEN (*FATHERS DAY*)  
 Sat. June 21 Robert Hess  
 Sun. June 22 Frank Muller  
 Sat. June 28 Richard Moretz  
 Sun. June 29 Allan Schaubert

**Special Thanks is extended to Lauren Kelly for her work on scheduling the 2002 and 2003 Weekend Carver Demonstrations. If you are interested in becoming a weekend carver or can carve on any of the "OPEN" weekends please contact Lauren or Patrick Vincenti at 410-734-6238. Thanks!**

## CLASSIFIED

For our members we offer free classified ads to buy, sell, and e 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: Basswood, Kin dries nom. Sizes 4x6 and 5x7 any length. \$1.75 board foot. Call 410-939-1904

WANTED: Pair of Madison Mitchell 1/4 size Mallards. Call Bob @ 443-807-1273

WANTED: Pair of Ward Brothers 1/4 size Pintails. Call Bob @ 443-807-1273

FOR SALE: 1970 26' Penn Yan SPORT FISHERMAN Twin 350 inboards \$4,000.00. Call Bob @ 410-939-1273 (this sale to benefit the museum)

FOR SALE: Nine Jim Duck Stamp Bottles. Call Ken Heisey @ 717-867-1545

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