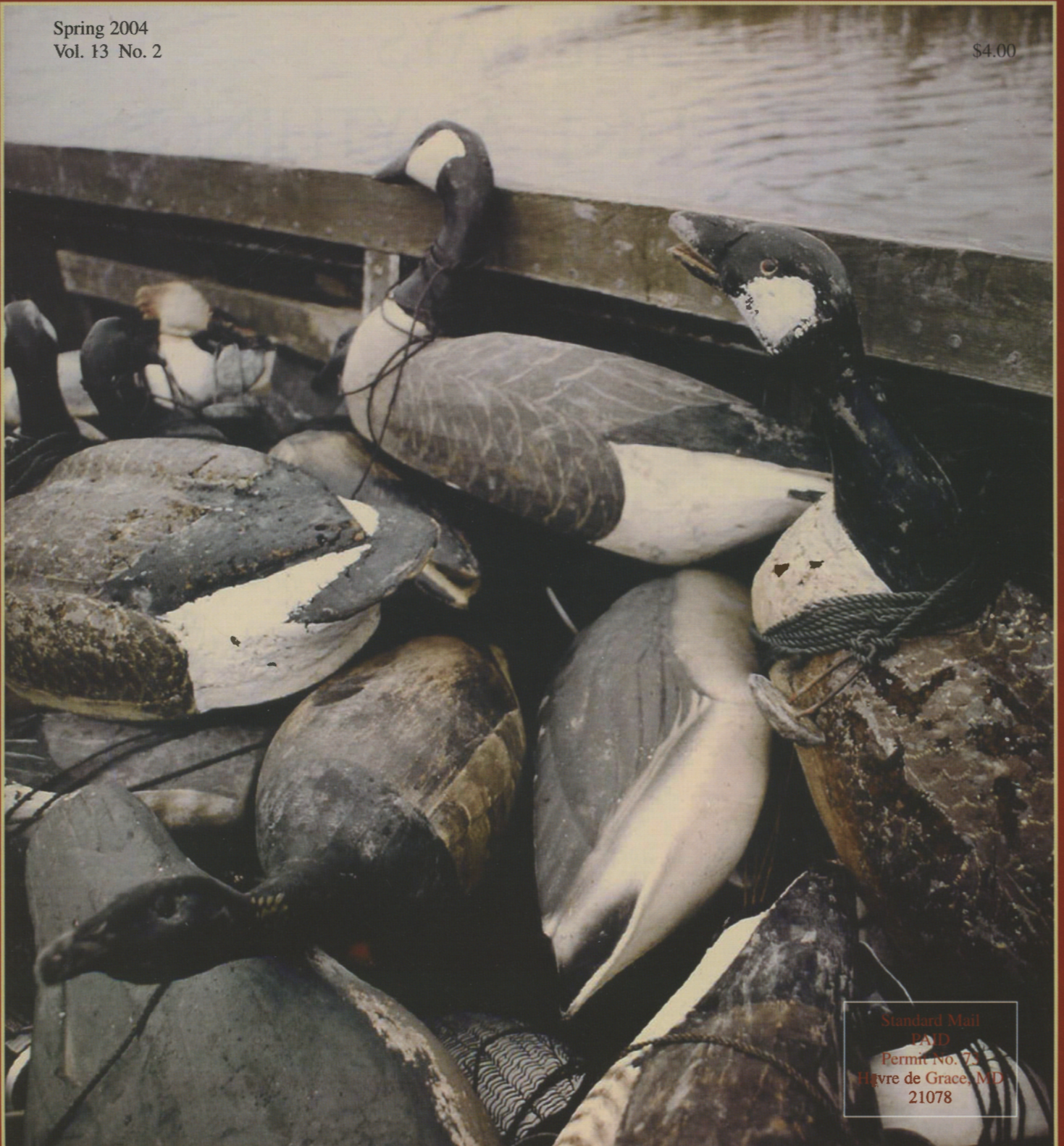


Havre de Grace
**Decoy and Wildlife
Art Festival**

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

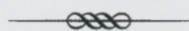
Spring 2004
Vol. 13 No. 2

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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

"Gunning rig" from the Chesser family photo collection.



FROM THE STAFF

Dear Members and Good Friends,

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Board and Staff are off to a running start for this spring's Festival. Great treasures await both the avid carvers and collectors of decoys, as well as their enduring spouses (OK, OK some of our avid collectors and carvers are moms too!). Festival Chairman, Ed Watts has been pounding the pavement looking for and receiving great gifts for the Mother's Day "Mother's Only" free drawings for all attending moms. Smyth Jewelers has come forward as a sponsor of that event.

Margaret Jones has, lots of good food set-up, exhibitors signed-up, and special new guest, The L.C. Smith Collector's Association setting up displays at the Decoy Museum for this year's event. The board and special volunteers for the Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest and the well known Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Carvers Competition have been working together with Margaret to make this years competitions more exciting then ever.

We are pleased that Charlie Packard has agreed to take on the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network Gallery Enhancement project. Although a bit behind schedule, a lot of the preparations will now begin to move forward and our members will begin to enjoy the excitement of watching the evolution of a new gallery. If you or any contacts you may have might be willing or able to make contributions of time, skills, or materials to our gallery project we invite to call the museum with your "in-kind" contribution ideas (please see our Fall 2003 Canvasback for detailed information) we'll pass your contact information on to Charlie.

We hope that you will join us bringing in the new season and visit us as you can. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

On behalf of the Board and Staff,

Debra L. Pence

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Havre de Grace Decoy Museum
215 Giles Street
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
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From the President



Dear Museum Member,

When the founders of our museum started this labor of love twenty three years ago they had no idea where it would lead them. The museum's doors have been open to the public some eighteen years. Over this period of time our museum has evolved from a group of volunteers who did everything from driving nails to staffing the museum to becoming a strong corporate business with a five member staff supported by the board of directors and a core group of volunteers. Without the constant support of our membership, none of this could have been possible. Like the Concord Point Light, the Decoy Museum stands at the head of the Chesapeake Bay as a reminder of what volunteers with a vision and purpose can achieve. We provide the community as well as the state, with a wonderful tourist destination while keeping in mind our true purpose and duty to preserve and present the legacy of our Waterfowl Heritage.

Do to the success that Debra Pence had in acquiring a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, our main gallery is scheduled for a major renovation. The end result will give our visitors a better understanding of our mission and at the same time provide us with the opportunity to easily enhance and update future displays within that gallery space. The gallery enhancement project will be lead by board member Charlie Packard. Unfortunately, Debra has decided to take her career in a different direction. She has accepted a position with the St. Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks, Museum Division. We would like to thank her for her guidance and all her efforts as Executive Director of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum these past two and one half years. We wish her well.

We would like to congratulate and thank Grayson Chesser for his role as Honorary Chairman for this year's Decoy Festival. It was a pleasure visiting with him and spending time at his home this past February. The Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival is the largest fund raiser the Museum hosts each year. We would like to acknowledge the tremendous job Margaret Jones has done as Special Events Coordinator. We are anticipating a great showing of old decoys, both in the Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest, and throughout sales at the show. The Museum Staff and Directors look forward to visiting with many of our members at the Festival this year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Patrick Vincenti".

Patrick Vincenti

Funded in Part By:

Maryland State Arts Council • City of Havre De Grace • Harford County

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.

FESTIVAL 2004

AUTOGRAPHS

Honorary Chairmen

1982	R. Madison Mitchell <i>deceased</i>	<i>R. Madison Mitchell</i>
1983	Paul Gibson <i>deceased</i>	<i>Paul Gibson</i>
1984	Charles Bryan	
1985	No Chairman	
1986	Robert Litzenberg <i>deceased</i>	<i>Robert Litzenberg</i>
1987	Charles Joiner	
1988	Captain Harry Jobs	
1989	Captain Bill Collins	
1990	Captain Roger Urie	
1991	James Pierce	
1992	James Currier <i>deceased</i>	<i>James A. Currier</i>
1993	William "Bill" Schaub	
	and	
	Allan Schaub	
1994	Robert McGaw <i>deceased</i>	<i>Robert F. McGaw Jr.</i>
1995	J. Evans McKinney <i>deceased</i>	<i>J. Evans McKinney</i>
1996	Harry V. Shourds II	
1997	Ronald Rue	

FESTIVAL 2004 AUTOGRAPHS

1998 Lem and Steve Ward
 deceased

1999 Oliver Lawson

2000 John "Daddy" Holly,
 James Holly,
 William "Bill", and
 John Holly Jr.
 deceased

2001 Charles Nelson Barnard
 deceased

Charles Nelson Barnard

2002 Patrick Vincenti

2003 Ned Mayne

2004 Grayson Chesser



From Top Left: Pat Vincenti, Bill Collins, Harry Shrouds, Allan & Bill Schaubert
From Bottom Left: Harry Jobes, Charlie Bryan, Charlie Joiner & Jim Pierce - photo by Leo Heppner

Thank You

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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.

FESTIVAL 2004 PROGRAMS

Dates: May 7 - 8 - 9, 2003

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)

2003 Honorary Chairman — Grayson Chesser

Admission: \$6.00 per day. \$10.00 for weekend pass.
Children under 12 are admitted free with an adult.

Friday, May 7

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Show

Saturday, May 8 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

11:00 a.m. River Gunning Division

DM Grounds
Sponsored by County Banking & Trust

11:00 a.m.-4:00p.m. Goose & Duck Calling Demonstrations

DM Grounds

12:00 & 3:00 p.m. Silent Auctions

HS Lobby

1:00p.m. Old Decoy Contest

MS Stage

1:00p.m. Live Auction Preview

HS Auditorium

1:00, 2:00 & 3:00 p.m. Retriever Demonstrations

DM Grounds
Oakdale Retrievers with Vicky Trainor & friends

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 9 Event Schedule

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Show

10:30 a.m. Carving Competition Judging

HS Auxiliary Gym
Youth Gunning Division
Sponsored by Foredom Electric Co.
Decorative Slick Division
Decorative L/S Fish Division
Gunning Decoy Division

11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Goose & Duck Calling for Adults

DM Grounds

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Hourly Mother's Day Door Prize Drawing

MS Lobby

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 & 2:00 p.m. Children's Duck Calling Demonstrations

HS Lobby

12:00 & 3:00 p.m. Silent Auctions

HS Lobby

1:00 & 2:00 p.m. Retriever Demonstrations

DM Grounds
Oakdale Retrievers with Vicky Trainor & friends

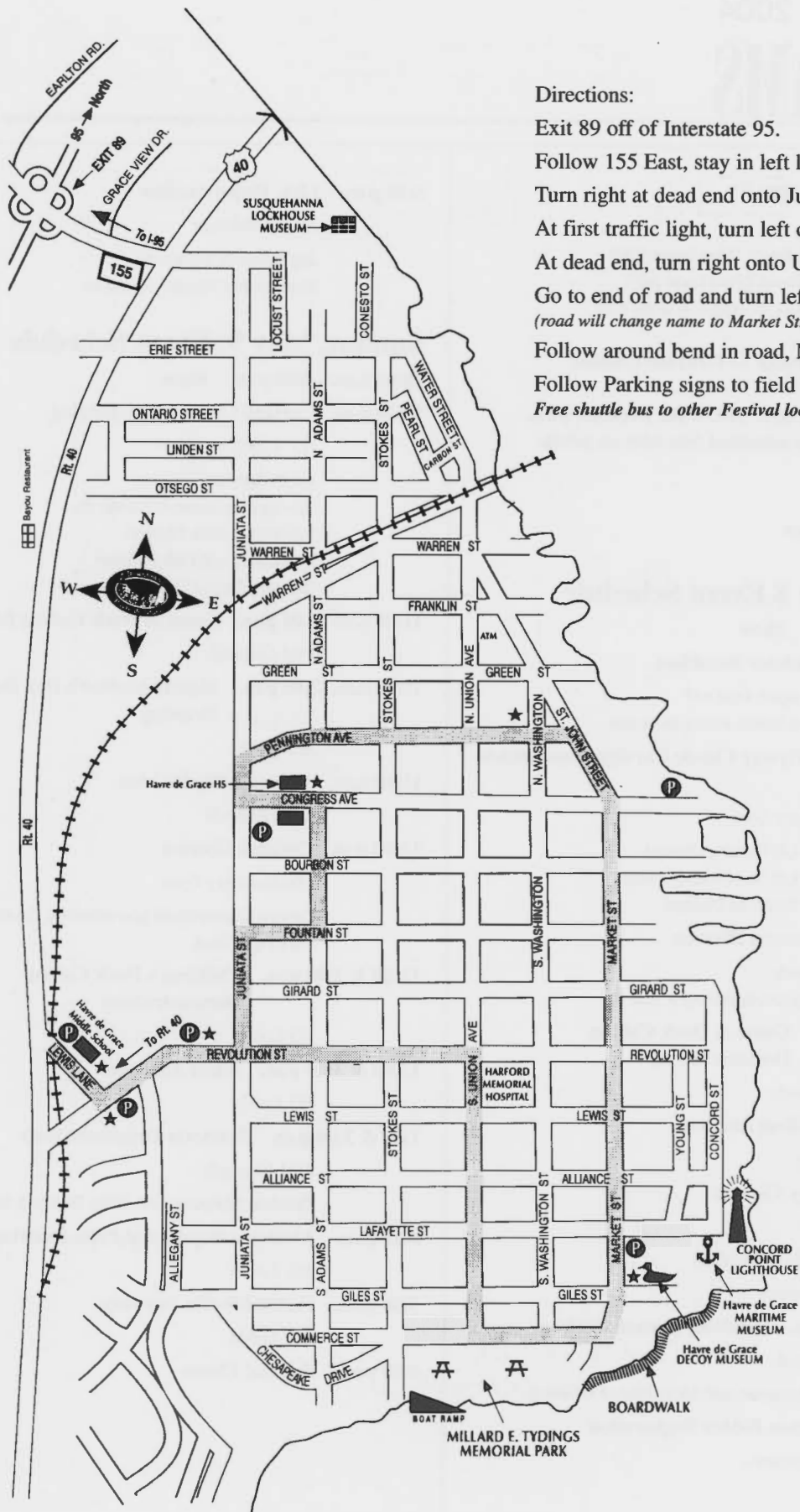
3:15 p.m. Mother's Day Grand Prize Drawing

MS Lobby

3:30 p.m. Festival Raffle Drawing

MS Lobby

4:00 p.m. Festival Closes



Directions:

Exit 89 off of Interstate 95.

Follow 155 East, stay in left lane.

Turn right at dead end onto Juniata Street.

At first traffic light, turn left onto Ostego.

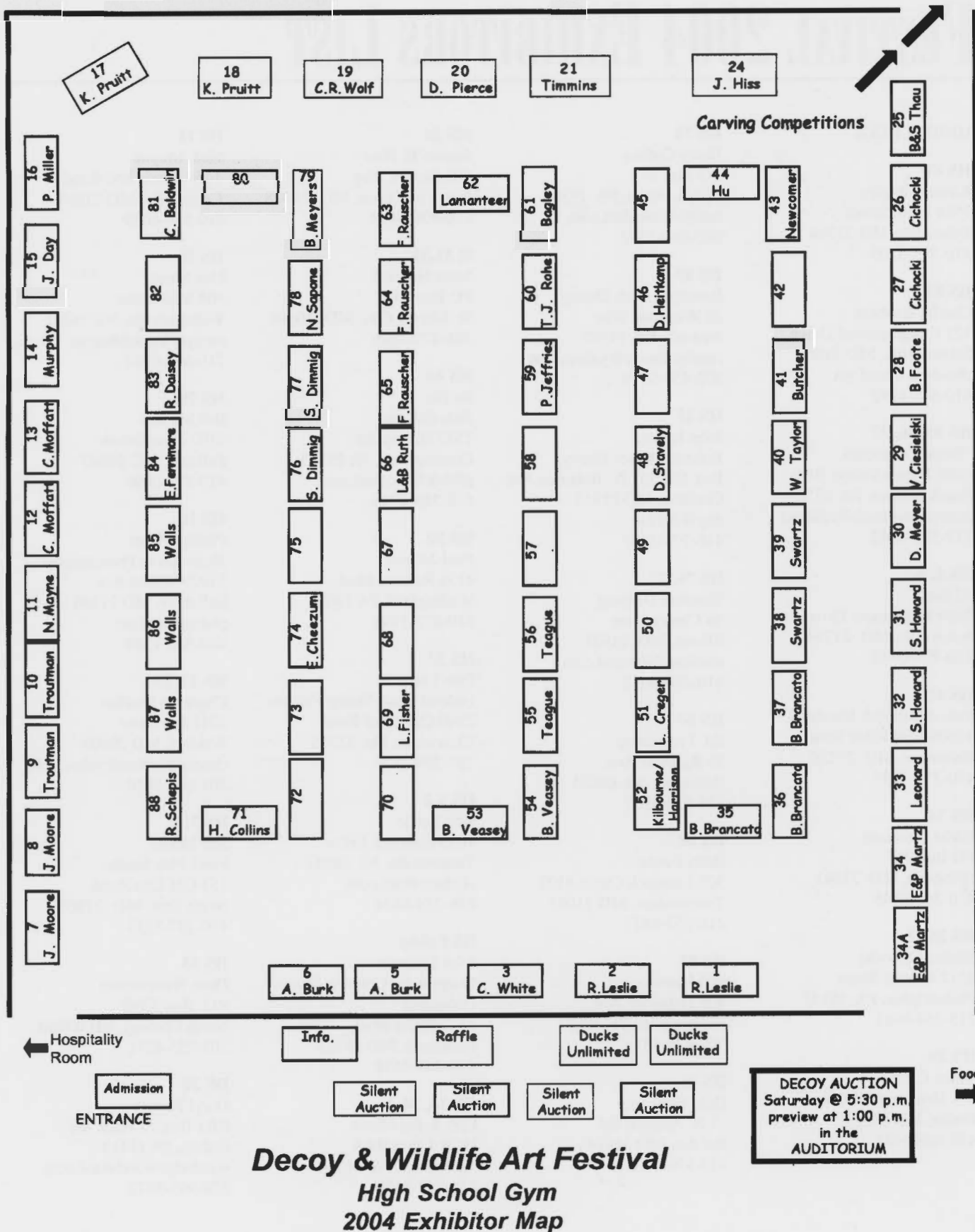
At dead end, turn right onto Union Avenue.

Go to end of road and turn left onto Congress Ave
(road will change name to Market Street).

Follow around bend in road, Museum will be on right.

Follow Parking signs to field behind museum.

Free shuttle bus to other Festival locations.



FESTIVAL 2004 EXHIBITORS LIST

HIGH SCHOOL

HS 61

Richard Bagley
7526 Main Street
Sykesville, MD 21784
410-795-5209

HS 81

Charlie Baldwin
127 Congressional Drive
Stevensville, MD 21666
cbaldwin@toad.net
410-643-1892

HS 35, 36, 37

"Bronc" Brancato
2680 Robert Fulton Hwy.
Peach Bottom, PA 17563
sunnyacresranch@epix.net
717-548-4042

HS 5, 6

Al Burk
7000 Beachmont Drive
Sykesville, MD 21784
410-795-0849

HS 41

Paul & Deborah Butcher
10609 Bird River Road
Baltimore, MD 21220
410-335-3237

HS 74

Eddie Cheezum
PO Box 213
Hillsboro, MD 21641
410-364-9846

HS 26,27

Walter Cichocki
4512 Mercer Street
Philadelphia, PA 19137
215-289-0861

HS 29

Vince Ciesielski
111 Henry's Mill Drive
Berlin, MD 21811
410-629-1425

HS 71

Harry Collins
PO Box 31
New London, PA 19360
harryc@localnet.com
610-869-3237

HS 83

Rosalyn Leach Daisey
25 Winsome Way
Newark, DE 19702
rosalyndaisey@yahoo.com
302-453-9779

HS 15

John R. Day
Bohemia River Decoys
Box 508 151 N. Bohemia Ave
Cecilton, MD 21913
day@dol.net
410-275-8387

HS 76, 77

Shannon Dimmig
34 Cherry Lane
Elkton, MD 21921
shannond@iximd.com
410-286-6672

HS 84

Ed Fennimore
25 Railroad Ave.
Bellmawr, NJ 08031
856-933-1557

HS 28

Betty Foote
505 Limerick Circle #102
Timmonium, MD 21093
410-252-6827

HS 52

Bill Harrison
405 Delaware Ave
Wilmington, DE 19803
302-478-4814

HS 46

Dale Heitkamp
17 N. Atwood Rd
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-836-7103

HS 24

Jeanne B. Hiss
205 Seneca Way
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
410-939-5038

H 31,32

Scott Howard
PO Box 54
St. Mary's City, MD 20686
301-872-4666

HS 44

Jia Hu
Jia's Gift Hut
1533 Hilltop Rd
Dowington, PA 19335
gifthut@localnet.com
610-384-2745

HS 59

Paul Jeffries
1158 Putnam Blvd.
Wallingford, PA 19086
610-872-1491

HS 33

Don Leonard
Federal Duck Stamp Patches
2340 Campbell Road
Clearwater, Fla. 33765
727-799-2833

HS 1,2

Rob Leslie
1035 Hancock Drive
Turnersville, NJ 08012
skidado@aol.com
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HS 34, 34-A

Earl & Pat Martz
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814-927-8659

HS 11

Ned Mayne
1450 Lands End Road
Centreville, MD 21617
410-556-6039

HS 30

Dan Meyer
308 Mill Street
Williamsville, NY 14221
dmeyer@adelphia.net
716-633-6282

HS 79

Bill Meyers
2107 Haverbrook
Fallston, MD 21047
410-877-3096

HS 16

Phillip Miller
Shore Shots Photography
31029 Wilton Ave
Salisbury, MD 21804
pharm@ezy.net
410-543-1544

HS 12, 13

Charlotte Moffatt
3711 Joy Lane
Waldorf, MD 20603
charronmoffatt@yahoo.com
301-645-5610

HS 7, 8

Jeff Moore
Fowl Play Studio
153 Old Elm Road
North East, MD 21901
410-287-5253

HS 43

Dave Newcomber
P.O. Box 3292
North Conway, NH 03860
207-935-4271

HS 20

Daryl Pierce
RR1 Box 71 Hack Rd
Dalton, PA 18414
windridgewood@aol.com
570-945-5472

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HS 17, 18

Karen C. Pruitt
P.O. Box 978
Nassawadox, VA 23413
pruitt3j@esva.net
757-442-2727

HS 63,64,65

Frank Rauscher
1361 Karen Lane
Radnor, PA 19087
610-964-0642

HS 60

Thomas J. Rohe
303 Columbia Lane
Stevensville, MD 21666
TJ3B42@friend.LY.net
410-643-2116

HS 66

Linda & Bill Ruth
Lost Bay Carvings
9463 Doral Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
412-366-5926

HS 78

Nick Sapone
P.O. Box 33
Wanchese, NC 27981
252-473-3136

HS 88

Richard F. Schepis
2808 Woolley Road
Wall, NJ 07719
732-681-5777

HS 48

Dave Stavely
40 Mount Pleasant Ave.
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-3115

HS 38, 39

Don Swartz
Hillcrest Carving
271 Hempfield Ave
Landisville, PA 17538
drswartz@onemain.com
717-898-7186

HS 40

Warner Taylor
3 Wild Orchid Way
Port Deposit, MD 21904
410-378-3467

HS 55, 56

Kenneth Teague
64 Taperd Oak Lane
Levittown, PA 19054
215-946-2185

HS 25

Bob & Susan Thau
108 Touhey Drive
Stevensville, MD 21660
410-643-2022

HS 21

Merrill Timmins
6492 Kenmar Drive
Sykesville, MD 21784
ftimmins@adelphia.net
410-781-4008

HS 9,10

Mary Lou Troutman
Cozy Cupboard
PO Box 230
49510 Lois Lane
Dameron, MD 20628
301-872-5807

HS 53,54

Bill Veasey
16 Gill Drive
Newark, DE 19713
302-286-6672

HS 85, 86, 87

Cinda Walls
Knotts Knives
5549 Spinnaker Dr
Salisbury, MD 21801
knottskn@dmv.com
410-546-1635

HS 3

Chris White
70 Waterwheel Drive
Port Deposit, MD 21904
cwstudio@joimail.com
410-939-4779

HS 19

C. Ronald Wolf
501 Marstellar Road Apt.3
New Park, PA 17352
ronald8139@aol.com
717-993-0147

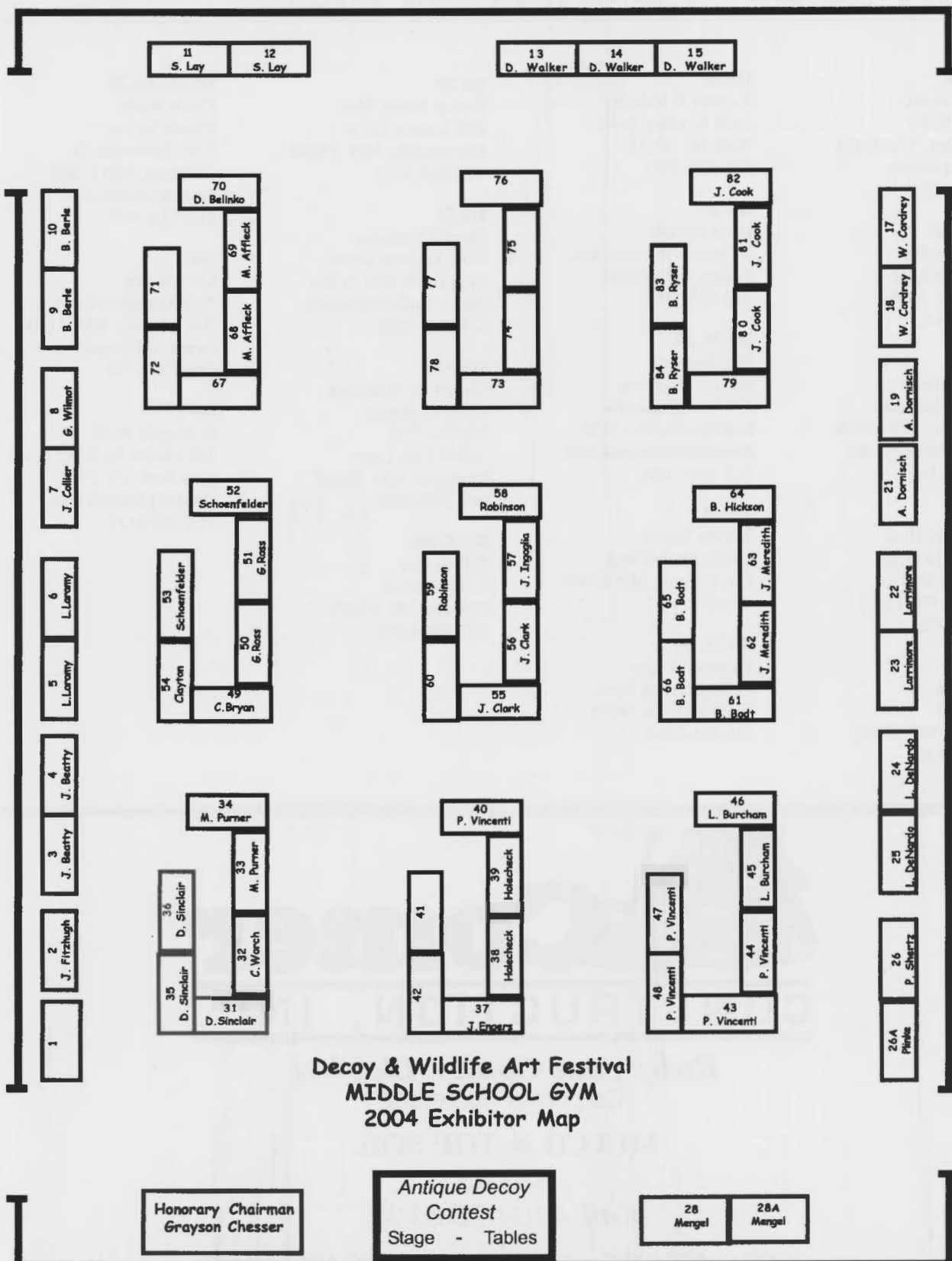


Ruby Ann Comer-Blevins
Corporate Secretary

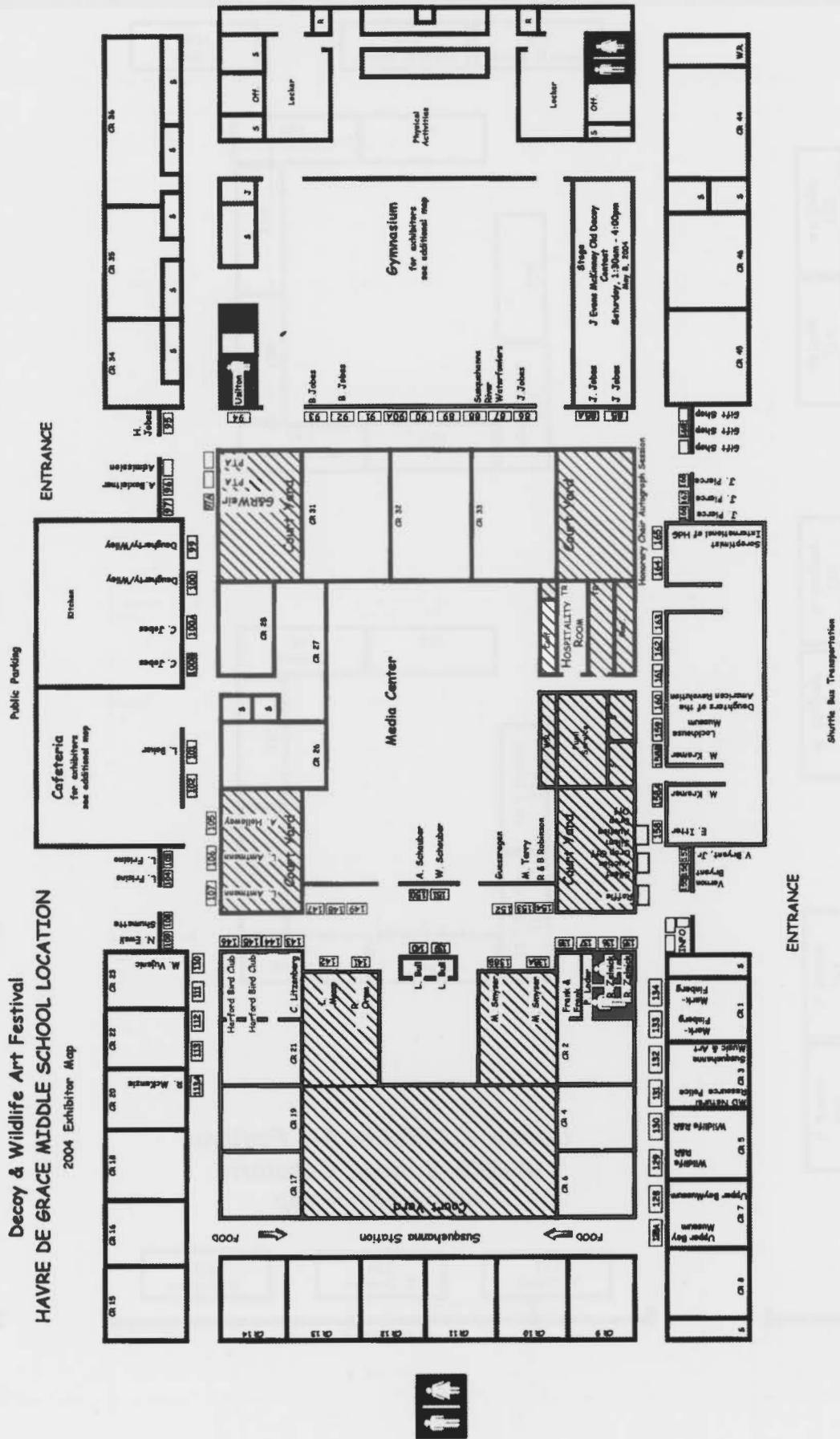
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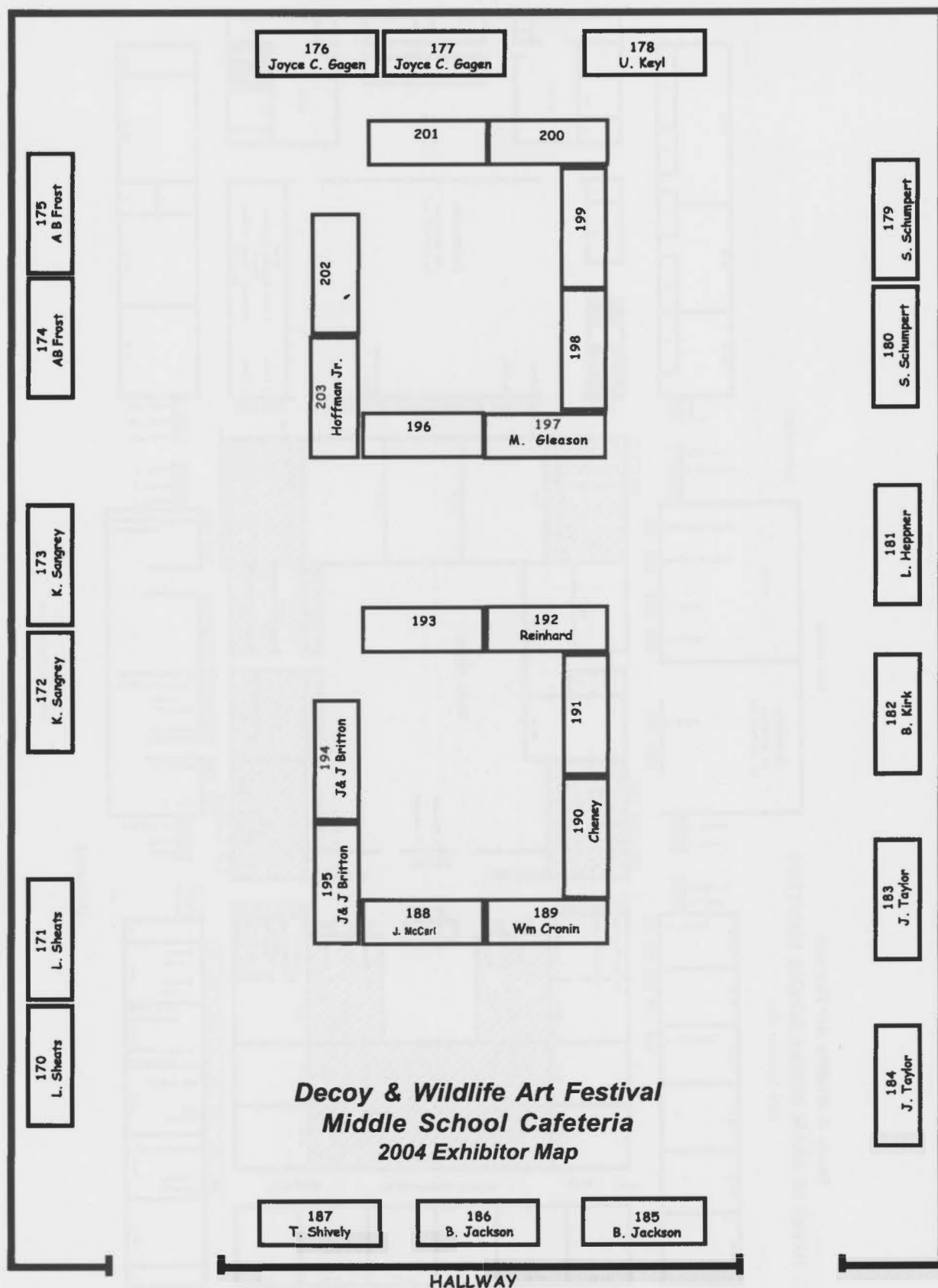
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Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival HAYRE DE GRACE MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCATION 2004 Exhibitor Map





FESTIVAL 2004 EXHIBITORS LIST

MIDDLE SCHOOL

MS 68, 69

Michael Affleck
664 Congress Ave
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

MS 106,107

Linda Amtmann
411 Vogts Lane
Baltimore, MD 21221
410-391-1217

MS 101

Leonard C. Baker, Sr.
Chesapeake Model Boats
424 S. Washington Street
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
410-939-6391

MS 3, 4

Jocelyn Beatty
265 Mitchell Rd.
West Middlesex, PA 16159
724-528-3121

MS 70

Donna Belinko
105 Croydon Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
410-377-2191

MS 9,10

Beatrice Berle
P.O. Box 546
Corolla, NC 27927
252-453-2718

MS 61, 65, 66

Bryon Bodt
2917 Churchville Rd
Churchville, MD 21028
bryon@bodtdecoys.com
410-734-7702

MS 96

Art Boxleitner
18 Main Street
Willow Street, PA 17584
717-464-2513

MS 194, 195

Jim & Jackie Britton
664 Twin Harbor Road
Reedville, VA 22539
804-453-4643
holmesbcrosslink.net

MS 49

Charles Bryan
1405 Wilson Point Road
Baltimore, MD 21220
410-686-7082

MS 155,156

Vernon Bryant
90 Greenbank Road
Perryville, MD 21903
410-287-8548

MS 157

Vernon Bryant, Jr.
90 Greenbank Road
Perryville, MD 21903
410-287-8548

MS 139,140

Linda & Wes Bull
2317 Bowersox Road
New Windsor, MD 21776
410-875-2260

MS 45,46

Leonard Burcham
703 Market Street
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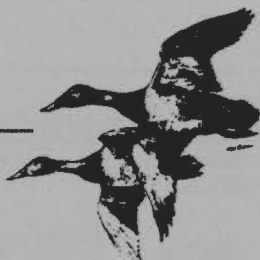
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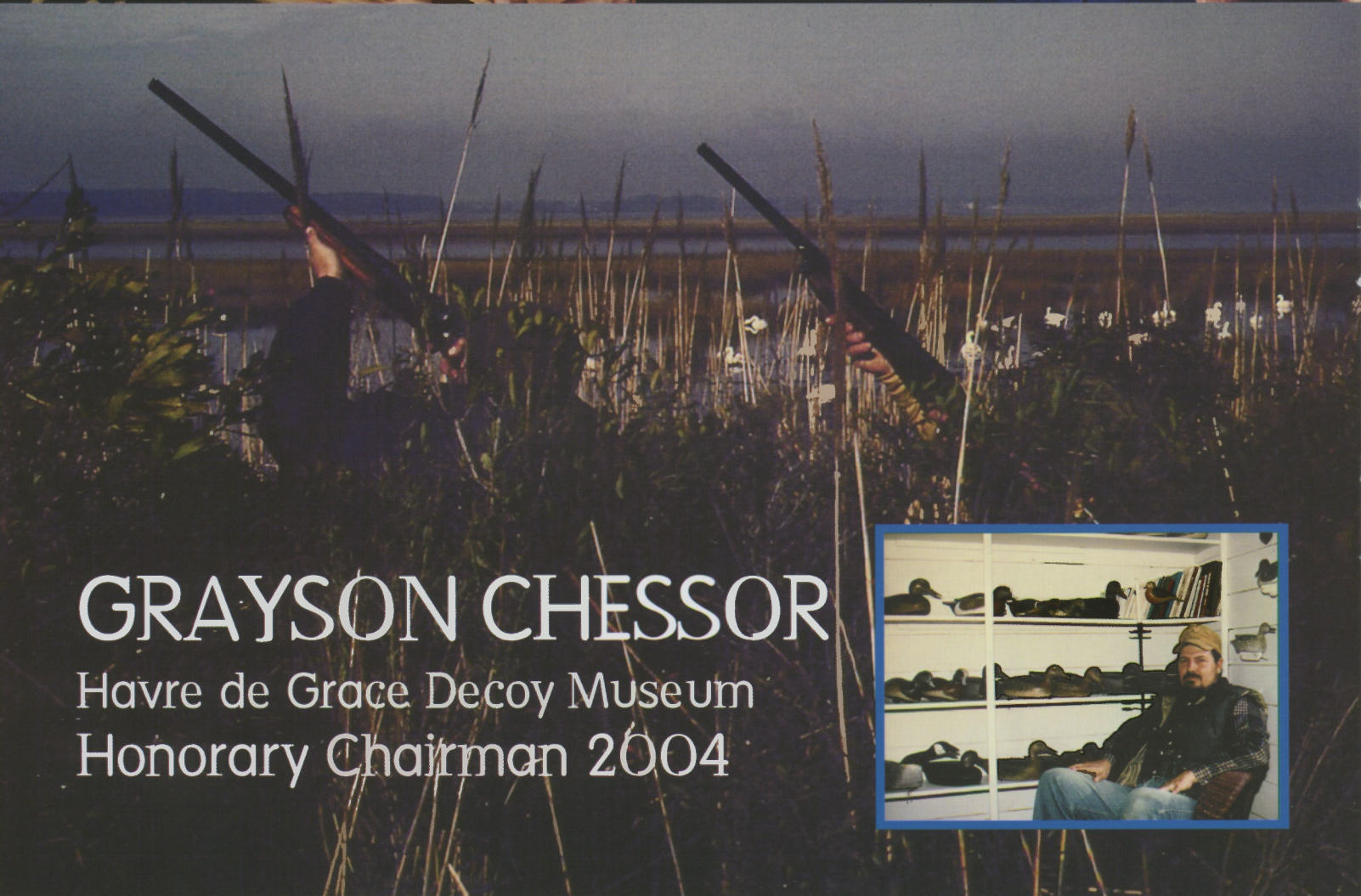
J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest

The 2nd annual Old Decoy Contest to be held in conjunction with the 2004 Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival will be held Saturday, May 8th at the Middle School Gym. Entries will be accepted at the stage area from 10:00 a.m. until judging at noon. 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. There is a competition ban, regardless of category, on last year's winning birds. 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. Winners will be requested to display their decoys and ribbons at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum for a three month period.



- * Best Upper Bay Diving Duck (non-canvasback)
- * Best William Haverin-any species
- * Best Madison Mitchell Puddle Duck
- * Best Mid-Bay Canvasback (non-Ward)
- * Best New Jersey Merganser
- * Best Upper Bay Pintail
- * Best Severin Hall Paint
- * Best Ward Bros. Duck any species
- * Best Virginia Black Duck
- * Best Folkiest Unknown

There will be no restrictions as to those who can participate or number of categories entered. However, participants are restricted to no more than three birds per category. Any questions, please contact contest chairman, Jim Trimble @ 703-768-7264 or email potomacduck@cox.net



GRAYSON CHESSOR

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Honorary Chairman 2004





Grayson Chesser

Carving Decoys the Old Fashioned Way

Story by Danny L. Imwold

Grayson Chesser has been carving decoys on Virginia's eastern shore since he was twelve or thirteen years old. Growing up near Assawoman island on the Accomack County peninsula, he learned to hunt over decoys and decided early on that he could make his own.

Now, some forty years later, Grayson Chesser has become one of the most renowned carvers on the east coast, his birds being exhibited in local and regional decoy shows as well as in the Smithsonian Institute, the Cummer Museum in Jacksonville, Florida, and on the courtyard of the Rayburn Building in Washington, DC. He's been part of two television programs and been featured in various magazines including *Field and Stream*, *Decoy Magazine*, *American Hunter* and *Duck's Unlimited*. His Holden Creek Gun Club, open since 1973 and founded on the family's 1500 acre farm near Jenkins Bridge, Virginia, is home to ducks, geese, dove, turkey, rabbit and deer. There are duck blinds and decoy rigs for every opportunity that avails itself, any time of the year. Along with the other three guides at Holden Creek, you may be lucky enough to have Grayson himself guide you to some of the premier hunting spots along the shore.

I spoke with Grayson toward the end of January about his love of hunting and carving and about life in general for a man who seems to be doing what he loves. As one of his hunting friends, Teddy McKeldin, once said, "he lives the life we all dream about." Grayson himself feels that he's been lucky, "I have no idea where I'd be today without it (carving)."

Grayson speaks with that southern drawl peculiar to Virginians, though he says he didn't know he had one until he starting doing shows. He comes across as laid-back and comfortable, a man with a Business degree from Old Dominion University where he says he "learned to swim," and someone who cares a lot about waterfowl and the art of carving. His hunting club is on land that his great-grandfather bought in 1912, though his family's been a part of local tradition since the early 1600's. "My family tree looks like my dog's," he told me during our con-

*"He lives
the life
we all
dream
about."*

Teddy McKeldin

versation. Sometime during the American Revolution when the British tried coming up the bay, Grayson says some of his ancestors helped to turn them back. And there's the colorful story of one relative, Colonel Edmund Scarborough, who was "a pirate and a scoundrel," he claims proudly.

Married since 1970 to his wife Dawn, he told me that their wedding day was a little "informal." While driving down into North Carolina one day, he suggested they get married then and there. He stopped and asked a local gas station attendant where they could get married and was told "nowhere around here." Not being the kind to give-up easily, he eventually came across a "200-pound meter maid" who suggested they go to "Marrying Sam" who did quicky weddings in his house. They were married that day, with a neighbor acting as witness and for five dollars more, they had "Here Comes the Bride" played for them on an old piano. Thirty four years later, Mrs. Grayson (Dawn) Chesser is still with him, and he feels even luckier that she is not only supportive of his lifestyle, but shares in it.

"The lodge at the club is hers," he told me. A converted barn, the main lodge has a full kitchen, central air and heat, three bedrooms, a sitting room and library, and provides guests with equipment, boats, guides and a chef who can not only prepare the "catch of the day" but can also set a gourmet meal comparable to many fine restaurants. Dawn oversees the operation of the lodge and also acts as the bakery chef, baking fresh pies, cakes, biscuits and pastries for visiting hunters and carvers.

Dawn's part in his life was never more evident than recently when there was a fire in Grayson's carving shop.

"I was sittin' in a boat watchin' fire engines race across the bridge and thinkin' to myself, somebody's got a fire somewhere," Grayson recalls. When he returned home he learned the bad news. "My wife fought the fire until the firefighters got there," he says. Although it could have been much worse, he did lose seven Brant, a goose, two redheads, and a Hooded Merganser that had been carved in 1962. Lots of smoke and water damage, "but the shop was saved, thanks to (Dawn)."

Grayson's shop is typical of carvers these days, with a drill press and a band saw to cut out the bodies from the wood. He prefers hand tools for the actual carving, "hand tools are just as good as power tools," he believes. He uses a spoke shave, knife and chisels, and likes to finish with a sure-form or cabinet-makers rasp. "You don't need much sanding if you use a rasp, and a slightly rougher surface holds paint better than if it's sanded smooth."

Once he's cut the body, Grayson screws a block onto the bottom and sets it in a vice for carving. By using hand tools he feels closer to the work than if he used more automated equipment. "Everything is so specialized, some hand tools are like a mystery. You get real attached to certain ones."

Grayson firmly believes that for the ducks, all expression is in the head and neck position, and uses this belief in making each decoy an individual. In his book, *Making Decoys The Century-Old Way* (with Curtis Badger, Stackpole Books, 1989), he provides step-by-step instructions for carving, and cites the importance of creating ducks that appear to be sleeping, feeding and preening. By following his examples, carvers should be able to turn out a decent quality decoy.

And though he strives for accuracy and detail, Grayson also believes in the creativity of the carver, "The human eye is not a camera, you don't need every feather" he believes, "when you try to get exact detail of a bird, you get away from personal touch." He likes to walk through the woods and find just the right twisted branch to use for the neck and head, or stroll along the beach for the perfect piece of driftwood. And something that I think says a lot about the man - Grayson told me that he doesn't want to do a sloppy job because "I think so much of them (waterfowl)," he said.

Grayson's reverence for the birds he carves may also be a part of his experience working as a game warden with the state of Virginia. During the seven years he spent with that department, he came to understand the importance of conserving the very waterfowl he carves decoys to hunt for. And he understood that it was not the state magistrates who could make the greatest contribution to increasing the



numbers of ducks returning to the bay area. Grayson firmly believes that it is the hunters that can make the most difference. Changing the way points are calculated (by states) along the Atlantic Flyway, and thereby changing hunting patterns, would greatly enhance the populations of endangered waterfowl by reducing the number of kills of those species by hunters.

Grayson still carves his birds "to be hunted over." And he still likes to carve primarily for the rig - a group of decoys designed to bring the real-thing in. If you're strictly carving for the mantle or a bookshelf, Grayson feels that you're mostly making a piece of art, and you can pretty much do what you want. But to carve a bird to hunt over, "you have more constraints." The way the decoy floats in the water, the coloration, and its part in the rig, all work to bring ducks in for the hunt. And except for the popularity of decoy art in the last twenty or thirty years, that's why decoys were made.

"When I started, nobody made a living making decoys," Grayson relates. Even some of the well-known carvers from the past, some of the greats like Cigar Daisy and Miles Hancock, sold decoys for as little as three dollars or traded them for equipment and supplies. "I started collecting decoys about the same time I started carving," Grayson says. Today many of his more recent decoys never actually see the water, although he stays true to his "hunt-over" philosophy. The trick now is "to make birds that look old," to look as if they had spent some time floating in a rig. This makes the decorative bird more desirable and is achieved through the use of aged woods and painting techniques, including the use of oil based paints, that suggest aging.

Though well-known himself, Grayson Chesser believes that the art form he cherishes is something that is carried on from generation to generation by hunters and craftsmen alike. Carvers like Mark McNair, Cigar Daisy, the Ward brothers, Umbrella Watson, and Miles Hancock, one of the last market hunters on Chincoteague and a man Grayson describes as a "wonderful, wonderful man." Hancock was instrumental in Grayson's development as a carver, say-

ing that Grayson's first attempt as a young boy "looked like a pair of shoe boxes!" They don't anymore.

"I learned from some of those guys directly," Grayson recalls, "and there's no way to repay them except to teach others to carve. I have no desire to take knowledge (of carving) to the grave with me."

I asked Grayson who he thought some of the up-and-comers in carving might be, who might join him among the ranks of the best. All he could say was that there are so many young carvers out there, "a lotta good talent."

New carvers, or those trying to perfect their art, can take classes at Holden Creek Gun Club. Keeping class sizes down to three or four students at a time, Grayson believes he can provide more specialized attention and allow each student to progress at his or her own pace. Classes can last several days and students stay at the lodge, along with the guests who are there for hunting.

As far as hunting is concerned, Holden Creek Gun Club has blinds placed in marshes, along the shores of the bay, around ponds and in fields. "Whatever the conditions, we can set a hunter in front of some ducks." The club's boats are equipped with portable blinds and various rigs for all kinds of waterfowl, and Grayson claims that the club has "more boats than a lot of South American navies, I'll tell you that." Included in that list is a twenty two foot Jones Brothers with a couple of Yamaha Nineties that'll get you to the hunt pretty fast. And although he can't guarantee a hunter will get his limit, Grayson can assure visitors of a good days hunting.

That's where the storytelling comes in. According to Grayson, part of the allure of the hunt is the exchange of stories while you're waiting for your rig to bring in some ducks. And a good guide has to know some good stories. Story telling is an "oral tradition being held by fingernails these days. (But) when you're a hunting guide,

you're in the entertainment business," so story-telling is a part of the hunt. One such story is that of Grayson's grandfather who had a live mallard hen decoy. She'd float around on the pond and flirt with every passing drake until one would splash down next to her. Once the drake was in the water, she'd run for cover in the cattails until all the shooting was over, then swim back over and peck the heck out of the dead duck for being so stupid.



Although he feels that the actual shooting is secondary to the entire experience, Grayson still hunts with the parties he guides. If he couldn't hunt with them, well, then, it would just be a job. And that would be like work. "I make friends with a lot of the guys I take out, some just kids. So now I have friends who are only in there twenties or thirties," he likes to say.

Despite being from Virginia's Eastern Shore, Grayson is honored to have been chosen as the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's Honorary Chairman, acknowledging that there are a "whole lot of good carvers out here who could have been chosen." He feels honored to be included in that group, and hopes that you'll be able to stop by and say hello during the Havre de Grace Decoy Festival May 7, 8, and 9.

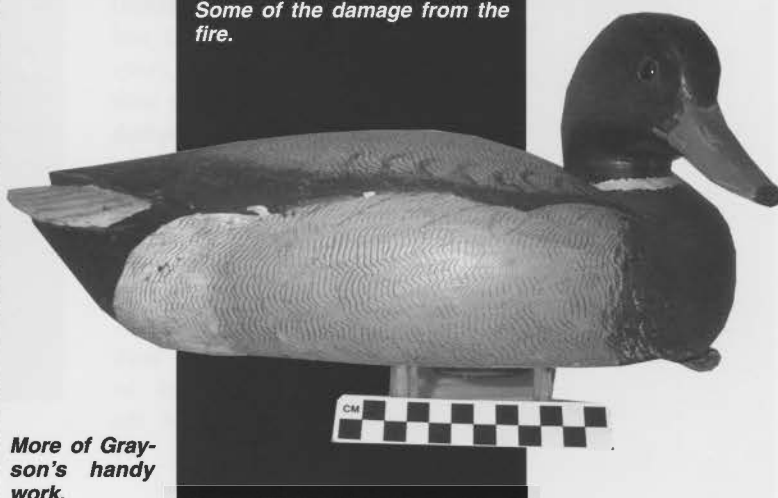
You can find more about Grayson Chesser and the Holden Creek Gun Club at his website at <http://www.chesserdecoys.com>.



Grayson's father was a Game Warden.



Some of the damage from the fire.



More of Grayson's handy work.

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Potomac River's Freestone Point Club

By James L. Trimble

Revised March 9, 2004

Virginia's Freestone Point, a massive rock outcropping that juts out into the Potomac just south of the Occoquan Bay, is bound by Neabsco Creek to the North and Powells Creek to the South. 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.

Mason Neck is the massive jut of land north of the Occoquan Bay, where exclusive gunning clubs had been established. The old tobacco plantation properties were ideal, as railroad right-of-ways that paralleled the river, had preserved large parcels of prime waterfowl habitat. The gunning clubs that wrapped Occoquan Bay, north of Freestone, included the Gunston Cove Club, Hollowing Point Club, High Point Club, and the Belmont Bay Clubs, all located on Mason Neck in Fairfax County. The

Henry (Light Horse Harry) Lee III, Revolutionary Calvary leader, Governor of Virginia, and father of Robert E. Lee. The Lees eventually sold Leesylvania to the Fairfax family. During the Civil War, 37 heavy pieces of Confederate artillery controlled the Potomac River at Freestone, effectively choking supply boats going to Washington. After the war, Quakers leased the property to harvest the wood, and other Leesylvania properties were obtained by the railroads to expand their north/south tracks. The Fairfax house was destroyed by fire in 1910, the apparent work of vagrants or transients. During prohibition, bootleggers moved in, establishing numerous whiskey stills, with regular shipments to the nearby markets of Alexandria and Washington.

In 1926, William Wheelock and Percy Chubb, sportsmen and waterfowl hunters from New York, leased the property that they would eventually purchase. They built a five-bedroom, two-story

Wealthy guests of Wheelock and Chubb arrived by railroad car at an unofficial stop at Neabisco Creek, where they stayed in magnificently arranged Victorian cars and/or were met by the cook in horse and buggy, for the short ride back to the lodge.

clubs that fronted the Occoquan Bay, just south of the Occoquan River, were the Deep Hole Club, and Hoover Farm, both located in Prince William County. Club membership represented wealth. Money was spent to hire experienced caretakers and guides away from established Back Bay clubs along the Virginia/Carolina border.

South of Freestone Point, located at Quantico Creek, was the Possum Point Club, a club whose membership was comprised primarily of railroad officials. This club, like most of the other clubs established on the Potomac, was staffed with a caretaker and guides from Back Bay Virginia/North Carolina.

The Lees of Virginia owned tobacco property with river fishery that included Freestone point for 90 years without occupancy. In 1747, Henry Lee II built his home and named his plantation lands Leesylvania (Lee's woods). This home was the birthplace of

frame clubhouse with large fireplace, and named their hunting properties with vast shoreline blinds, Freestone Point Gun Club. Pete Smith, a guide at the Ragged Island Club in Back Bay, was hired as their first caretaker. William A. Hampton, another guide from the Back Bay area, eventually replaced him. As caretaker, Hampton was provided with a small house near the water's edge. Like the other clubs along the Potomac with Back Bay caretakers and guides, the initial supply of decoys used were from the Virginia/Carolina area. Replenishment, because of easy rail access, came from the upper Chesapeake Bay.

Prior to purchase of Freestone, Wheelock, and possibly Chubb, were members of the Narrows Club, a gunning club on Currituck Sound. Decoy Historian Joe French, in his Mason Bluebill article published Jan/Feb 04 in Decoy Magazine, describes decoys acquired from the Walter Bush collection with WHW brand. A



Freestone Point Gun Club, vacated and delapidated, prior to its being torn down by the state of Virginia. Photo courtesy of Pat Knock, Historian - Leesylvania State Park; Woodbridge, VA.

former manager of the Currituck Club advised French that the brand belonged to William H. Wheelock, who joined the Narrows Club in 1903. That club eventually merged with the Currituck Club in 1939. Walter Bush had listed the WHW branded decoys in his collection as coming from the Currituck Club in North Carolina.

The Freestone Point clubhouse was complete with railroad siding, a liquor laden bar in the form of a "little red wagon" that came out of a concealed door when a bell was rung, and an outbuilding that contained about ten lead-lined ice boxes to store ducks after they were killed. Wealthy guests of Wheelock and Chubb arrived by railroad car at an unofficial stop at Neabisco Creek, where they stayed in magnificently arranged Victorian cars and/or were met by the cook in horse and buggy, for the short ride back to the lodge. One local waterman interviewed also recalls stories of those same railroad tracks, bringing in annual carloads of corn, as the migratory ducks began their fall arrival. Freestone point, which fronted Maryland waters, used sink box rigs, both single and double, until outlawed in 1934. The three miles of water frontage between Neabisco and Powells Creeks, supported numerous shore and offshore blinds.

William Wheelock was in real estate. He was the president of the real estate management firm of Brown, Wheelock,

Harris and Stevens, as well as president of the Real Estate Board of NYC. Purportedly, Wheelock also served as president of Prudential Insurance Company and served on the boards of numerous NYC charities. William Wheelock's partner, Percy Chubb, was a wealthy marine insurance underwriter whose firm had been established in the late 1800s, and would grow to one of the largest property and casualty insurance underwriters in the free world. Wheelock kept careful records of waterfowl killed, either from box or blind, at Freestone Point until he sold the property in 1941. On Nov 20, 1926 club member Frank C. Page shot 3 canvasback and 10 blackheads from a club sinkbox. On Dec 8 & 9 of that same year, W.H. Wheelock also shot from a sinkbox. On the second day, he killed 24 canvasbacks, 2 redheads and four blackheads - a total of 30. Wheelock's records reflect a steady decline in duck kills; 1,544 ducks killed in 1928, with only 272 killed the year he sold (1941).

Howard Joynt, a waterfowler and prominent Alexandria, VA attorney, who purchased in 1941, maintained Freestone Point for hunting. Joynt's caretaker was William Hampton's son, William "Doc" Hampton, Jr., who also worked as a waterman. Wheelock's grandson, Morgan Wheelock, Jr., states that Joint was a family friend and that he and his dad hunted the property until the early to mid 1950s.

Wheelock relates a story of meeting his dad for a board member lunch at the Harvard Club in NYC. His dad, like his grandfather, had been a member of the original Freestone Point Club. It was the early 1950s, and his dad who arrived early, had his morning kill of ducks and geese from Freestone laid out on the sidewalk. The club's chefs gathered and prepared Wheelock's birds for the board's lunch. Morgan Wheelock also advised, that as the ducks diminished in the early 1950s, they hunted the property for wild turkey.

The property was sold in the mid 1950s to gambling interests. The gambling interests failed, with the properties' remaining 508 acres eventually being purchased by the State in 1978 for parkland. The property has since been renamed Leesylvania State Park. The present day amphitheater, located near the visitor's center, is the location of the old clubhouse. The clubhouse fireplace remains along with a club history marker. However, secondary tree growth blocks the river vista. The visitor's center historical display, which includes photos of the old clubhouse and a few gunning artifacts, is well done and worth the visit! If you bypass the Leesylvania entrance, and continue along Neabisco Creek, Hampton's Landing Marina will be on the left. It is owned and operated by "Butch" Hampton, the grandson of the caretaker who arrived from Back Bay so many years ago!

Jim Trimble is a regular contributing writer to The Canvasback Magazine where his stories are able combine his love of history with his interest in Chesapeake Bay and Chincoteague area decoys. If you have information of early decoy makers from that area, contact Jim at (703) 768-7264 or potomacduck@cox.net.

We would like to thank Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine for permission to run this story.

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FESTIVAL 2004

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Festival Chairman	Ed Watts
Festival Coordinator	Margaret Jones
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Auctioneer	Howie Travers
Silent Auction	GeorgAnn Pabst
Volunteer Coordinator	Madelyn M. Shank
Marketing	Laura DeNardo
Sponsorship Coordinator	Patrick Vincenti
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	Vicki Ferguson
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Middle School Coordinator	Natalie Holloway
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Autograph Session	Madelyn M. Shank
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	Susquehanna Station (Middle School)
Mitchell Shop Carver	Capt. Bill Collins
	John Mitchell
Exhibitor & Sponsor Reception	MacGregor's Restaurant
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	Allen Fair
	John Ingoglia
	Ed Watts
Old Decoy Contest	Jim Trimble
	Joe Engers



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HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM 23rd ANNUAL DECOY FESTIVAL AUCTION

Saturday, May 8, 2004

Havre de Grace, High School Auditorium

Preview begins at 1:00 PM.

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: Howie Travers

Terms of Sale: Cash, Personal Check, Visa and 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.

(Consignor's will be charged 20% of the auctioned 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 31, 2004

An updated list will be available at the Festival.

Lot	Price Realized	Item
1.	_____	Buffle Head Pair by Allen Purner, signed.
2.	_____	Green-winged Teal Sleeper Hen by Giannetto
3.	_____	Green-winged Teal Drake by Norman Williams, cork, signed and dated 1981.
4.	_____	Buffle Head Pair by Giannetto
5.	_____	Blue-winged Teal Drake by J. Seibert, signed and dated 1989. Delaware River Decoy Co. stamp
6.	_____	Blue-winged Teal Drake by Jim Wright, Doublecreek, Maryland, signed and dated 1964
7.	_____	Green-winged Teal Pair by Bill Collins, signed and dated 1990
8.	_____	Ruddy Duck Pair by Patrick Vincenti, signed and dated 2001
9.	_____	Ruddy Duck pair by Bill Schaubert, signed and dated 1994
10.	_____	Canvasback sinkbox pair by Robert Litzenberg, signed.
11.	_____	Pintail Pair by Jim Pierce. Original paint. Signed "Jim Pierce" and stamped "JP" Havre de Grace, Maryland
12.	_____	Canvasback Pair Charlie Bryan. Original paint. Hi-head Drake and Hen Sleeper. Signed and dated 1993. Middle River, Maryland
13	_____	Black Duck by Sam Barnes. Cork black duck in worn original paint. Havre de Grace, Maryland
14	_____	Canvasback Drake by Jim Currier in old working paint. Havre de Grace, Maryland
15	_____	Drake Canvasback by Dick Simperts in working repaint with "J" stamped in lead keel. Havre de Grace, Maryland
16	_____	Drake Blue Bill. Original paint. Branded "GDB". From Dave Blackiston's rig. Chestertown, Maryland
17	_____	Antique Decoy TBA
18	_____	Antique Decoy TBA
19	_____	Antique Decoy TBA
20	_____	Antique Decoy TBA
21	_____	Bluebill pair by Bill Litzenberg of Elkton, MD, in original paint. (Pop Sampson heads, Jimmy Pierce bodies and paint. Bill put it all together)

- 22 _____ Ruddy Duck Pair by Bill Schauber. These are Limited Edition Birds - mint.
- 23 _____ Canvasback Drake Decoy, thought to be by Taylor Boyd of Perryville, with very rare "MT.VERNON" brand.
- 24 _____ Mason Mallard, circa 1910. Good paint.
- 25 _____ Sam Barnes Cork Canvasback, circa 1920, from Alvin Decker Gun Rig
- 26 _____ Robert L. McKinney High head Canvasback, circa 1930-40 by. Initialed on weight.
- 27 _____ Jim Holly Canvasback, circa 1910
- 28 _____ Jim Pierce Teal. Copy of a "Holly" Teal. Circa 1975. Decoy is split underneath. Not signed.
- 29 _____ Stoney Pt. decoy. Wood duck, late 70's.
- 30 _____ Coot by Joe Verdin. Bayou Blue, Louisiana, 1960's
- 31 _____ Old cork and wood Canvasback Decoy, unknown maker
- 32 _____ Old Upper Bay Canvasback, unknown maker
- 33 _____ Canvas Swan by Frank Muller. Contemporary.
- 34 _____ Canvas Goose by Frank Muller. Contemporary.
- 35 _____ Cork Goose by Frank Muller. Contemporary.
- 36 _____ Canvasback Pair by Charlie Joiner, signed and dated 1995
- 37 _____ Pintail Drake by Steve Lay, signed.
- 38 _____ Pintail Hen by Steve Lay, signed.
- 39 _____ Ruddy Drake by Dan Carson, signed and dated 1993
- 40 _____ Black Duck, resting, by Patrick Vincenti, signed and dated 1990
- 41 _____ Natural wood Swan, varnished.
- 42 _____ Canada Goose from the rig of Bill Sills of Havre de Grace, circa 1950's. Original paint.
- 43 _____ Canvasback Drake with old working repaint; Cecil County.
- 44 _____ R. Madison Mitchell Cork Goose branded RNB. Original paint.
- 45 _____ Black Head Hen by James Holly circa 1890's. Old working repaint.
- 46 _____ Canvasback Drake by John Graham circa 1880's. Old working repaint. Good condition.
- 47 _____ Canvasback Drake by Chauncey Reynolds of Cecil County. Repaint.

48	_____	Leonard Pryor Canvasback Drake from Chesapeake City. Old working repaint.
49	_____	Black Duck by R. Madison Mitchell, circa 1960's. Original paint. Good condition.
50	_____	Canvasback Drake by Madison Mitchell circa 1960's. Original paint. Good condition.
51	_____	Canvasback Pair by Allen Purner, Elkton, MD. Original paint, excellent condition.
52	_____	Canvasback Drake, possibly Sam Barnes, with old working repaint and line and anchor.
53	_____	Lockard style Canvasback Drake by Parker.
54	_____	Mitchell style Canvasback Drake. Oversize sleeper by Parker.
55	_____	Cork Canvasback Drake by Sam Barnes of Havre de Grace. Repaint.
56	_____	Holly Black Head Drake circa 1880's. Old working repaint.
57	_____	Henry Davis / Asa Owens Canvasback Drake. Original paint. Good condition. From Perryville, MD.
58	_____	R. Madison Mitchell Canada Goose, Havre de Grace, MD. Repaint. From the rig of Bill Sills.
59	_____	Canada Goose from the rig of Bill Sills of Havre de Grace, circa 1950's. Original paint.
60	_____	James Holly Redhead Drake, Havre de Grace, MD. Circa 1880's, with old working repaint.
61	_____	Canvasback Drake, unknown maker.
62	_____	Captain Jess Urie, Rock Hall, MD Goldeneye, with possible repaint.
63	_____	Canvasback Drake. Unknown maker.
64	_____	Captain Jess Urie, Rock Hall, MD Black Head Drake, possibly original paint.
65	_____	Madison Mitchell Canvasback Drake with repaint, circa 1940's.
66	_____	Red Breasted Merganser Drake by Lee Waterfield, North Carolina
67	_____	Wood Duck Drake by Lee Waterfield, North Carolina
68	_____	Ward style Canada Goose by Charlie Joiner, Chestertown, MD

All items are sold as is.

“Retrievers”

Early European Market Hunter's Unusual Breed

by Jim Trimble

The Poodle remained, at least until the end of the 19th century, a favored breed of the market gunner and pot-hunter along the southern rim of the English Channel, the North Sea, the Baltic and in the marshes of the great north-flowing European rivers. In these locations, where night-decoying [using tethered live ducks] of [wild] ducks to the hut [duck blind] is extensively practiced....at least half the birds fired at are only winged or disabled, and thus, without a dog gifted with sense, nose, and pluck, it would be perfectly impossible for the shooters, in the dead of night, to collect their game. This the poodle does, with a rapidity and intelligence which are simply unsurpassable.” Thus wrote Lewis Clement, who in 1882 became the first editor of *Shooting Times*.

English sportsman and writer H.H. Hunnewell, Jr., in 1894 wrote the following: “French poodles are, as a breed, one of the most, if not the most, intelligent variety of dogs. The number of tricks which they can be taught is boundless, and they are renowned for their faithfulness to their masters. They are splendid house dogs, most entertaining companions, and of the mildest disposition. They are by no means, as many people suppose them to be, merely toy dogs, but are very strong and useful. They have good noses, take to water readily, and are strong runners and beautiful jumpers. In Germany and France the market hunters use them extensively for retrieving”.

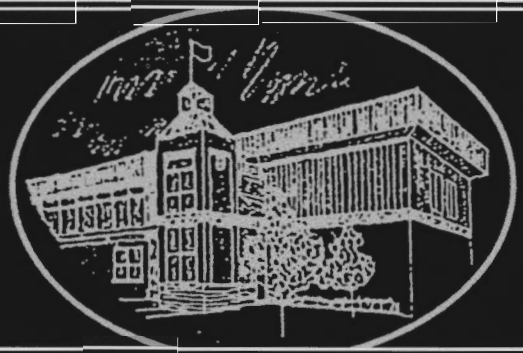
In all probability, the breed originated in Germany or possibly in Russia. It is known as “Puddeln” or “Pudel” in German, meaning a puddle dog or one that likes splashing water. In France, it is known as the “Caniche” or Duck Dog. All of the Poodle’s ancestors were good swimmers. One of the Poodle’s ancestors is thought to be the North African Barbet which was imported to the

Iberian Peninsula. From there it arrived in Gaul where it was used for its hunting abilities in the water. With its heavy wool like full-bodied fur coat and webbed paws, this water dog was considered the noble companion to the early European waterfowl hunter. The Poodle is often called the “French Poodle” because of its popularity in that country where it is the national dog.

The American Kennel Club lists 148 recognized breeds, which are broken down into seven groups. The Poodle, a recognized breed, is listed in the non-sporting group! It is the dog of the movie starlets, sometimes associated with “adorable,” excessive grooming, and eccentricities. You either love their breed or hate them! What ever happened to the noble companion of the early European waterfowl hunter?

Jim Trimble a regular contributing writer for *Decoy Magazine* and an occasional writer for the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum’s *Canvasback Magazine*, combines his love of history with his interest in the Chesapeake Bay and 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 and/or Chincoteague area carver, Jim would love to hear from you. He can be reached at 703-768-7264 or potomacduck@cox.net

MUSEUM NEWS



Volunteer and Carver Appreciation

Story by Margaret Jones

Photos by John Ingoglia & Debra Pence

It was an evening of fun and friendship. Fifty people came to enjoy each other's company and to have a good time. Food, wine, soft drinks and great baked goods donated by Kay Morrison, Mert Street, Joanne Calder, Madelyn M. Shank, Elly Coale and Bob Jones filled the tables.

Madelyn M. Shank presented the awards Carver of the Year to Noble Mentzer and Volunteer of the Year to Board Member Jay Freeman Wright. They each received a jacket with the museum logo, their name and their volunteer position embroidered on them. Last year's recipient Warren Hiss was later heard to say to Noble and Jay, welcome to the green jacket club.

Special Events Coordinator, Margaret Jones, presented certificates to some of the museum's young volunteers who are making contributions to the museum in their own ways. Special thanks went to Ellen Massie, one of our regular office volunteers for her help with bulk mailings, office support and special events help. Alex White, a Boy Scout, volunteered time during the Duck Fair to run games and who helped exhibitors set up and break down their tables. To Will Height, who assisted Margaret Jones at the Middle School during the Festival moving tables, chairs, hauling trash, supplies and any number of other things for all three days at last year's Festival. Ava and Wade Brendle-Williams, grandchildren of Dr. Brendle, who have put the Duck Head Christmas tree together since they were old enough to walk. Ian and Morgan Jones, Special Events Coordinator, Margaret Jones children have helped throughout the year. Ian helped at the 2003 Festival carrying supplies at the Middle School and helped with the Duck Fair games, and assisted exhibitors with set up and breakdown. Morgan face painted at the Duck Fair and has helped numerous times with bulk mail, yard clean-up and many other tasks around the museum. It is important to teach our kids how to volunteer.



Volunteers representing all aspects of the museum's work. Carver's, Tour Guides, Demonstrators and Visitor Services.

The best way is by example. If you don't already, consider volunteering some time to the museum.

Thanks to each and everyone who help to make a difference at the museum by giving a highly valuable commodity, your time. The staff is looking forward to working with all of you this year.

"The great art of giving consists in this: the gift should cost very little and yet be greatly coveted, so that it may be the more highly appreciated." - Baltasar Gracian.



Tables of Tasty food to treat our trusty volunteers and carvers

MUSEUM NEWS



Volunteer of the Year Jay Freeman Wright and Carver of the Year Noble Mentzer with Board President Patrick Vincenti and Member at large Madelynn Shank.



Charlie Bryan



Margaret Jones and Madelynn Shank giving the Youth Volunteer awards.



Kids enjoy the cool but calm weather.



Charlie Bryan and Jay Freeman Wright having a chat!



Madelynn Shank & Patrick Vincenti with 2003 Youth Volunteers.

MUSEUM NEWS



Eleventh Annual R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Dinner Review

by D.L. Pence, photos by Leo Heppner

The excitement of the evening was evident as over 235 participants filed through the door and began to circulate around the room. Conversations were animated and many admirable glances were cast towards the 25 Mitchell Pigeons, 12 Joiner Redheads and 12 Cast Iron Mitchell Bookends that were to be sold by lottery drawings later that evening. With such a tremendous response to this Eleventh Annual R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Fund Raiser, the organizers ordered a tent to house the silent auction items. Gifts to the live auction were abundant and generous and the 50/50 drawing exceeded \$800.00. Keeping up with his excellent reputation for wonderful and excellent service Lou Ward and his staff kept the parking lot organized while serving a wonderful meal in a very pleasant atmosphere. The R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Board Members and volunteers deserve special recognition for their hard work as they move forward in their quest to build the endowment to support the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's special projects, collections and exhibits. Special thanks are extended to the 235 participants and guests whose generosity allowed this event to gross over \$45,000.



25 Mitchell pigeons, 12 Joiner Redheads and 12 cast iron Mitchell Bookends, Lottery & Live Auction



ABOVE: Allen & Robin Burdette receive an Award for Outstanding Support from R. Madison Mitchell, Jr.

AT RIGHT: Marshall Freng also receives an Award for Outstanding Support from R. Madison Mitchell, Jr.



MUSEUM NEWS



It was a full house. The turn out for the Eleventh R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Fund Raiser was tremendous.



photos courtesy of Leo Heppner

MUSEUM NEWS



*Troop 2147 from
Oceanside NY*

Girl Scout Troop 2147 Performs Community Service

Story by Margaret Jones, Photos by Irene Rosen

On February 16, 2004, Cadet Girl Scout Troop 2147 from Oceanside, NY descended on the museum and did a whirlwind cleanup. Troop 2147 has been coming to Maryland for the last several years to conduct programs with different scout age boys and girls to complete the necessary leadership and community service hours required to earn the Gold Award. The Gold Award is the Girl Scout equivalent to the Boy Scout Eagle Scout award.

In the past, these scouts have been visiting with a Havre de Grace Brownie troop and Cub Scout den. Last year Troop 2147 was scheduled to arrive at the Decoy Museum to perform community service, but were snowed in by the blizzard and unable to come.

This year they made it and were excited to be here. Their leader, Irene Rosen brought with her: Nicole Verity, Erica Reszitzny, Jennie Pointek, Samantha Schuele, Kristie Hartman, and Samantha Rosen. The girls spent 4 hours taking down the holiday decorations, cleaning out one of the store rooms, re-packing event storage boxes, gave all the festival signs a touch up of white paint and changed the show dates.

The girls took a tour of the museum and ended the day at Susquehanna Station for a "real" Maryland seafood lunch. They spent the next several days conducting the "Washington DC 9/11" commemorative Girl Scout badge with a Daisy Troop (kindergarten age) and with two Brownie troops (grades 1-3) before returning to NY. The 9/11 commemorative badge is a series of three badges based on the three terrorist strike locations. The Washington DC site completes the series, which Troop 2147 began with their first visit.

The museum staff greatly appreciated all the assistance from the troop and is looking forward to their return visit in February of 2005. If anyone knows a scout troop that would like to perform community service, please have them contact Margaret Jones at the museum. We will happily put them to work.

MUSEUM NEWS



ABOVE: Kristie Hartman painting one of the signs.



ABOVE: Samantha Rosen and Samantha Schuele working on the Festival sign.



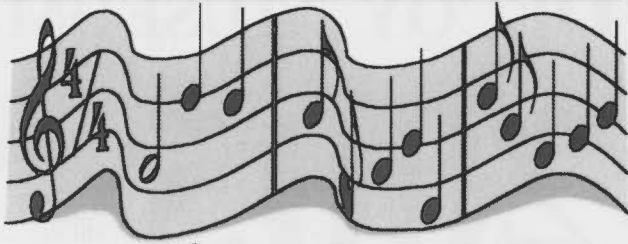
AT LEFT: Jennie Pointek & Erica Reszitaryk working in front of the museum.



ABOVE: Nicole Verity with one of the Festival signs.



ABOVE: Samantha Schuele taking down holiday decorations.



*Havre de Grace
Arts Ccmmission*

presents

The Musical Mile

*Saturday, May 8, 2004
6 to 8 PM*

St. John Street

*Jazz Swanns Jazz
Jazz Project Natale
Celtic Dogs Among
the Bushes*

St. John and Green Sts.

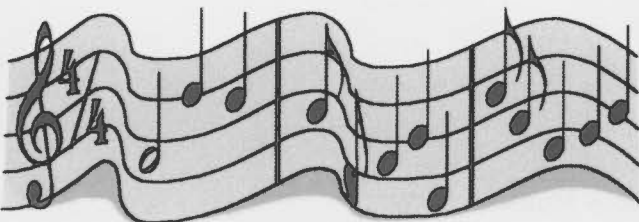
Jazz Jamey Nocks

Pennington & Washington

Tropical Dos Geckos

Washington & Congress

*Contemporary
Andy McIntyre*



CHESTERTOWN WILDLIFE EXHIBITION & SALE

2004

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16
9:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

Over 50 Carvers & Other Artists

Music • Food • Entertainment

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Carving Demonstrations

Decoy Identification

Retriever Demonstrations

Slide Programs

Door Prizes & Decoy Raffle

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

Patrons' Preview Party 5 PM - 7 PM

Public Preview Party 7 PM - 9 PM

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HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

2003-2005

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2003-April 2004

Chincoteague Collection Exhibit
January 2004 ñ June 2004
Main Gallery Renovations

February 21, 2004

Carver & Volunteer
Appreciation Reception

April-May 2004

Grayson Chesser
Festival Honorary Chairman
Exhibit, Main Gallery

May 7, 8, 9, 2004

23rd Annual Decoy & Wildlife
Art Festival Havre de Grace
High School, Middle School
& Decoy Museum

June-August 2004

Evans McKinney Old Decoy
Exhibit, Main Gallery

June-August 2004

Stansbury-Crisfield Decoy Exhibit,
Main Gallery

July 11, 2004

Sporting Clay Classic
J & P Hunting Lodge

September 11 & 12 2004

17th Annual Duck Fair
Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

September-October 2004

Duck Fair Chairman Exhibit,
Main Gallery

September-October 2004

Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit,
2nd Floor Gallery

November 6, 2004

18th Anniversary Dinner
at the Bayou Restaurant,
Havre de Grace

December 12, 2004

Candlelight Tour & Carver
Celebration

February 20, 2005

Carver & Volunteer Appreciation
Reception

April-May 2005

Festival Honorary Chairman
Exhibit

May 6, 7, 8, 2005

24th Annual Decoy &
Wildlife Art Festival
Havre de Grace High School,
Middle School, & Decoy Museum

July 10, 2005

Sporting Clays Classic
J&P Hunting Lodge

September-October 2005

Duck Fair Honorary Chairman
Exhibit

September 10 & 11, 2005

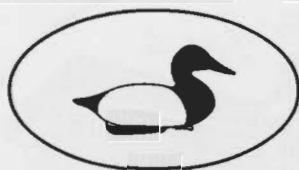
18th Annual Duck Fair

November 5, 2005

19th Anniversary Dinner
at the Bayou Restaurant,
Havre de Grace

December 11, 2005

Candlelight Tour & Carver
Celebration



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*

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

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*

LIFE

Free lifetime admission
Nameplate on Life Membership Plaque
Life membership pin
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. _____

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

At A Glance

2003



Founded 1981, Opened 1986

Mission Statement: The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum exists to collect, document, preserve and interpret water-fowl 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.

**2003 Quick
Statistics:**

Attendance: 16,782 visitors
Membership: 1100
Operating Budget \$260,000

Total Group Tours: 80 groups
Total Volunteers : Appx. 200

Facilities include: 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 11:00 am to 4:00 pm daily. Group discounts and flexible tour schedules are available with advance 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, 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. Anyone who enjoys 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 will appreciate a membership with the Decoy Museum.

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.

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 seminars, classes and workshops programs and exhibits. Call Salisbury University Education Department at (410) 742-4988 ext. 110

Spring Tour Reservations

Talk to your children's and grandchildren's teachers now about signing up for Decoy Museum tours this spring. Harford County students are free and we have several different tours to offer for different age/grade levels.

April 2004

April - May

HdG Decoy Museum Harford County Student Art Show in the Carvers Gallery for more info call 410-939-3739.

Thursday 22 & Friday 23

Guyette & Schmidt Annual Spring Decoy Auction featuring the collection of John Delph Contact Gary:(207)778-6256, Fax(207)778-6501 or Frank:(207)625-8055, Fax(207)625-4742 decoys@guyetteandschmidt.com www.guyetteandschmidt.com

May 2004

May - Oct

Guided Nature Walks of North Park Trail for specific dates and more information call the Lock House and Susquehanna Museum at 410-939-5780

Friday 7 - Sunday 9

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum 23rd Annual Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival Three days of buying, trading and showing decoys and wildlife art work. 175 artists, nationally recognized carving competitions, demonstrations, food and entertainment. Live and silent auctions. Call the museum for more information and admission prices. 410- 939-3739

Saturday 8

Musical Mile, 6-8pm in downtown Havre de Grace, Washington, St. John, Pennington and Franklin Streets call 410-939-4441

Sunday 9

Mother's Day Cruise aboard the Skipjack Martha Lewis by Reservation only for fees and more information call 410-939-7217

Monday 10 - Friday 14

A week long workshop with carver Glenn McMurdo is being organized by the Bel Air Carvers and hosted at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. For registration or other information contact the museum at 410-939-3739 see Glenn's web site at www.mcmurdocarvings.com

Sunday 22 - Saturday 23

Civil War Living History Weekend, noon to 5pm Steppingstone Museum, 461 Quaker Bottom Road, Havre de Grace for more information call 410-939-2299

June 2004

Friday 4 - Sunday 6

Maritime Heritage Festival 10am to 5pm Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, 100 Lafayette Street, for more info call 410-939-4800

Saturday 12

Scottish Festival Noon to 5pm at Steppingstone Museum, 461 Quaker Bottom Road, Havre de Grace, MD for more information call 410-939-2299

Saturday 19

Lock Tender's Beer Fest and Auction, 7-10:30 pm for reservations and fee information call the Lock House at 410-939-5780

Sunday 20

Father's Day Cruise aboard the Skipjack Martha Lewis by Reservation only for fees and more information call 410-939-7217

July 2004

Teen and student day camps and skills programs call the Maritime Museum for details at 410-939-4800

Student sailing programs with the Skipjack Martha Lewis call for details 410-939-4078

Sunday 11

Sporting Clays Shoot at J&P Hunting Lodge. For more information call 410-939-3739.

August 2004

Saturday 14 & Sunday 15

Seafood Festival at Tiding Park, Havre de Grace MD Sat. 11-7, Sun 11-5 call 410-939-1525

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22

41st Annual Art Show, Tydings Park in Havre de Grace MD sponsored by the Soroptomist International of HdG call for more information 410-939-9342

Weekend Carving Demonstrations

at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

APRIL	24	Bob Hess	JULY	3 & 4	NO CARVERS
	25	OPEN		10	OPEN
				11	Frank Muller
MAY	1 & 2	OPEN		17 & 18	Charlie Pierce
	8 & 9	Bill Collins & John Mitchell		24	Barb Wachter
	15	Joey Jobes		25	David Walker
	16	Frank Muller		31	Bob Hess
	22 & 23	OPEN	AUGUST	1	OPEN
	29	Joe Cook		7 & 8	John Ingoglia
	30	OPEN		14	OPEN
JUNE	5 & 6	John Ingoglia		15	Frank Muller
	12	Bob Hess		21 & 22	OPEN
	13	Frank Muller		28 & 29	OPEN
	19	Joe Cook	SEPT	4 & 5	OPEN
	20	Bryan Bodt		11	Joe Cook
	26	Barb Wahter		12	Frank Muller
	27	Bob Jobes		18	OPEN
				19	OPEN
				25	Joe Cook
				26	OPEN

Special Thanks is extended to Loren Kelly for her work on scheduling the 2003 and 2004 Weekend Carver Demonstrations. If you are interested in becoming a weekend carver or can carve on any of the "OPEN" weekends please contact Loren or Patrick Vincenti at 410-734-6238. Thanks!

Special Notice

Please note that the museum is not using it's AOL e-mail address. E-mails to the staff should be directed to decoymuseum@yahoo.com and e-mails to the Executive Director should be addressed as decoydirector@yahoo.com.

Did You Find It?

"It is our policy to include something for everyone. Since some people like to find errors, we regularly include a few in our publication to meet this expectation." *Well did you?*

the events '03





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