

The Canvasback

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

Summer 2004
Vol. 13 No. 3

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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

Past Honorary Chairmen Charlie Joiner, Chestertown MD., and Charlie Bryan, Middle River MD. Many thanks to both for their generosity and continued support for our Museum.



FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Friends of the Museum:

Your President, Pat Vincenti, asked me to serve as the volunteer editor of the Summer issue of the Canvasback Magazine while the search is conducted for a new Museum Director. My association with Pat and Jeannie Vincenti and Charlie Packard goes back quite a few years to when they were students at Havre de Grace High School and I was a social studies teacher. I could not resist the offer to reconnect with the City and with some of my former students.

This has been a rewarding personal experience in a number of ways in addition to reconnecting. I have gotten to know the Museum, of which I have been a member for many years, more intimately. I have met with a number of the members of the Board of Directors and have toured the whole Museum, learning in some detail its purpose and plans for the future. I have developed a greater appreciation for the volunteers that make the Museum go.

Pulling together this issue with the help of Pat Vincenti and Margaret Jones has been personally rewarding and I urge each of you to reap similar rewards by giving of your time and energy to this most worthy cultural and community organization.

See you at the Duck Fair.

John T. Case
Interim Editor



People enjoying the Retriever Dog demonstrations at the Museum.
— photo by R. Broth



Retriever Dog demonstrations at the Museum.
— photo by R. Broth

Margaret Jones EVENT COORDINATOR Festival Review 2004

The 2004 Festival proved to be a challenge. The Festival committee was faced with the “mother” of all weekends, Mother’s Day Weekend. Yes, mom’s ruled. To accommodate them, Festival Chairman Ed Watts, created a wonderful opportunity for moms. A special admission ticket for ladies only was sold all weekend and all the ladies were eligible for door prize drawings on Sunday. Jewelry, provided by Smyth Jewelers, was given away every hour on Sunday. Over 700 of these special tickets were sold. The winners of the door prizes were very pleased!

Friday and Saturday attendance was up over previous years. Many of the early arrivals took advantage of the situation and bought early and often. Sunday’s attendance was down, but overall 6,000 visitors enjoyed the weekend. We broadened our advertising this year to include TV ads and we managed to make the cover of the *Harford County Welcome Guide*. A 20 minute episode for Harford Cable’s “Down the Road” series was filmed at the Museum. The episode aired a number of times through the months of March and April. Everyone who had an opportunity to see this segment was delighted. Reporters for the *Baltimore Sun* came on Saturday. The Sunday “Harford” section of the *Baltimore Sun* paper featured a number of our exhibitors and carving competition competitors on the cover. The expanded marketing of the Festival proved a huge success. Thank you, Laura DeNardo, for all your hard work on the new marketing plan.

The Friday night reception was well attended. MacGregor’s Restaurant & Tavern provided the food and everyone who attended enjoyed themselves a great deal. Saturday’s breakfast was great. Our hats are off to the American Legion. Everyone who attended Saturday’s breakfast was pleasantly stuffed!

The J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest was held for the second year. It proved to be a crowd favorite. Many new and returning contestants entered and the judging was tough. The winners are on display in the Museum until the end of September. Thanks to Jim Trimble, Joe Engers, Griff Evans, Grayson Chesser, and everyone else for participating, organizing and judging this year’s contest.

The second “Great Outdoors” student art show took place the end of April. Board member Laura DeNardo and Harford County Art and Career Studies supervisor Susan Garrett organized the 50 entries from Harford County high school and middle school students. Festival Exhibitor Linda Amtmann judged this year’s entries. The pieces were judged on theme, medium, creativity and artistic technique. Thirty works were selected to be on display. All of the students should be congratulated for their talent and imaginative work. In addition to ribbons, the Best of Show, 2nd and 3rd place winners were awarded cash prizes. Congratulations to all the participants in this year’s show.

Volunteers make this event happen. The AMERICORPS group supplied their invaluable talents to setting up, and assisting with the Live Auction. They helped exhibitors on Sunday break down and load vehicles, they helped to break down tables and take out trash making the clean up so much faster. The S.M.I.L.E.S. group from Havre de Grace High School provided 75 hours of assistance. fifty-five volunteers manned admission tables, raffle ticket tables, provided docent led tours at the Museum and general support to the festival. Thank you for all your continued support and time.

Mark your calendars for next year. The Festival will be May 6, 7 & 8, 2005.

Be sure to read Ed Watts’ review on page 13.



LEFT and RIGHT: Competition Photos.
— photos by R. Broth



Summer Canvasback 2004

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From the President



Dear Museum Member

Those of us who are familiar with the small town of Havre de Grace have always known that this was a great place to live and also a wonderful place to visit. Today the waterfront, along with the Museums, restaurants and specialty shops have helped to make our city a tourist destination .

Visitors to our Museum overall have increased. They come in many forms including, school tours, large and small groups, and individuals. The Museum's staff and volunteers have done an excellent job presenting and interpreting the Museum's collection.

As a result of Hurricane Isabel, the Havre de Grace Promenade was destroyed. However, with the help of the City, Harford County Parks and Recreation, AMERICORPS Volunteers, and many local residents, the Havre de Grace Promenade Committee has rebuilt the board walk. The Promenade extends from Concord Point Light to Tydings Park. This will ensure a continued increase of visitors to Havre de Grace and also our Museum.

The success or failure of any organization depends on the dedication of the people involved. We often talk about volunteers and what they mean to our Museum. They are as valuable as the Museum's collection itself.

As many of you know the Museum has lost one of its most dedicated volunteers—Ken Lay. For more than twenty-four years, Ken provided a major leadership role in the success of this organization. As one of the Museum's founders, Kenny strove to shape and form the Museum's day-to-day operations. He served at every level from Festival Chairman to Vice President of the Board. Kenny chaired many subcommittees such as the Membership, Board Development, and Gift Shop Committees. Kenny was the driving force behind the design and installation of our stained glass windows. Many of these are permanent memorials that adorn the first and second floors of the Museum. In this effort Kenny was a committee of one. Kenny had recently been named the Museum's first Honorary Board Member. Ken's wife Mary says, "Ken so much looked forward to spending time and working with everyone at the Museum. The Decoy Museum is a lasting tribute to Ken's dedication to the community. We will all miss him very much."

On behalf of everyone associated with the Decoy Museum, both past and present, we express our deepest sympathies and gratitude to the entire Lay family.

Sincerely,

Patrick Vincenti
Patrick Vincenti
President

Funded in Part By:

MSAC • City of Havre De Grace • Harford County • The Drescher Foundation

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

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A Tribute & Eulogy to My Friend *Kenneth G. Lay*

By J. Noble Mentzer

Kenneth G. Lay known as Kenny to all, a man of integrity with unbounded energy, complete dedication to his country, family and to his beloved town of Havre de Grace.

The old expression, friends are made for a time of our lives and not a lifetime, is not always true. I stand before you and proudly say that for more than fifty-six years I have known a friend called Kenny. Fifty-six years exceeds a lifetime for many, so it is easy to say Kenny and I have been friends for a life time.

I recall in 1946, after his discharge from the Navy, Kenny, along with five other veterans from World War II, joined our high school class for graduation. To see the six veterans in their uniforms, in our class picture, brings back memories of complete pride.

Kenny was active in sports. As a baseball player, Kenny was graceful on the field and was recognized as a team player. This attribute would follow Kenny throughout his life. As a basketball player Kenny was an excellent defensive player. I can close my eyes and see his quick movements and waving of hands that distracted his opponent.

Kenny's achievements in our Volunteer Fire Department, Ambulance Corps and Decoy Museum are legendary. Along with his brother Elmo and his nephew Van they responded to calls day and night. The Ambulance Corps knew

him to be a man of his word, always available when promised. At the Decoy Museum he was a Charter Member who gave of his time and talents willingly. I have often thought that if the citizens of Havre de Grace knew how much Kenny loved their town, they would erect a monument to him.

In later years Kenny and I often talked about the fact we were the oldest living past Presidents of the Susquehanna Hose Company. Kenny, being the oldest, used to say, "Noble you are going to have to wait for that distinction because I'm in no hurry to leave Havre de Grace."

At Aberdeen Proving Grounds Kenny worked in the printing plant where once again the title Team Player helped him rise to the top of his profession. There are people who are leaders as well as those who follow—Kenny had the innate ability to be both.

As Kenny became ill and endured his daily pains, my thoughts turned to the scriptures; Joshua I, V:9, "Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid neither be thou dismayed for the Lord thy God is with you wherever you go." Kenny is now at rest and I am confident his spirit rests with our Lord.

I could go on and on speaking of Kenny's achievements and our friendship. The best way to express my respect for my classmate and friend is through a short story of significance.

A research chemist took his son to the laboratory one day. He gave him a piece of pure silver and a piece of pure gold then told him to press them against each other. Then the father placed the pieces of silver and gold under a powerful microscope and had his son look at them. He saw flecks of gold buried in the silver and silver in the gold. Part of each had come off on the other. Persons are like this, he told his son. When you make friends, part of you rubs off on them and part of them on you. What rubs off may be as simple as an expression or mannerism or maybe an idea—good or bad—that will influence you from then on.

Mary, Steve, Ronny, Susan I can assure you that more than a little of Kenny has rubbed off on me.



In Memory of *Kenneth E. Bryan*

By Patrick Vincenti

We were all saddened to learn of the death of Kenny Bryan on June 1, 2004. It is difficult to understand why someone so full of life could be gone in an instant.

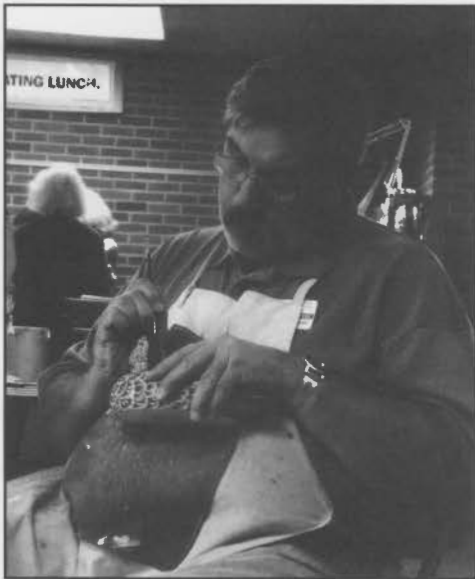
Kenny was a man who truly loved his family, always sharing time with his wife Jeanne and daughter Taylor. Many of us have had the pleasure of their hospitality. When visiting with Kenny and Jeanne they always made you feel at home.

Kenny was an avid hunter, fisherman and decoy collector. He pursued his decoy collecting with a passion and amassed a collection representing prominent makers from around the Chesapeake Bay region. Recently, in a conversation with Jeanne, she reminded me of Kenny's enthusiasm and child like delight when it came time to open a box or a bag revealing a new addition to the collection. Jeanne said that his story was always the same; "Isn't this great" and "What a bargain."

When we think of hunting with Kenny, it is hard to imagine the amount of time and energy he and all his friends devoted to making your day with them a memorable one. I'm told that this was an attribute he acquired from his late in-laws John and Eileen Camper.

Kenny has been a great supporter of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and also the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust.

On behalf of both organizations we would like to express our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Kenny Bryan. His presence will truly be missed.



Mike Gleason

2004 Honorary Duck Fair Chairman

CARVING A SILENT AVIARY

No matter what the medium, an artist translates his vision into the physical. A photographer may capture the moment on film. The French Impressionists of the 19th century painted their "impression" of the French countryside. The carver of decoys translates his vision of a bird into wood.

Michael Gleason is such a carver. An articulate and congenial man, this father of two and new grandfather is a long-time resident of Perry Hall, Baltimore County, Maryland. A self-taught carver, Mike creates decorative decoys and has been carving in his spare time for over twelve years. Trained at the Maryland Institute, College of Art, Mike was schooled in painting and sculpture long before he took an interest in decoys. While in college, he also studied traditional wooden puppet making with Paul's Puppets. (If you are over 50, you may remember their TV shows and appearances at department stores.)

In the 1980's, a neighbor of his in-laws created an aviary on his property which included a duck pond, stocked with all manner of wild and exotic ducks and geese. Mike could not pass up an opportunity to sketch and photograph these birds. At the same time, he began visiting decoy shows, discovering Havre de Grace and the Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival. He would gaze at the seemingly endless tables of wildfowl marvels, and it was then that the seeds of inspiration began to grow. He remembers asking his, then, father-in-law if he might know any carvers and was introduced to the late Len Kibler, an Annapolis area wildfowl artist. Mr. Kibler's shop was a revelation, but it almost made Mike quit before he ever started. A carver for over thirty years at the time, Len Kibler had several projects going on and equipment whose purpose Mike could not begin to identify. Though he never worked with Mike, in the tradition of decoy carvers, he encouraged him to study and begin carving. Mike's first pieces were clunky things that "kinda looked like ducks." Through trial and error, Mike learned the basics, what woods were better, how to shape and texture and that there was a rich history of decoy carving in Maryland.

Now, how often have we looked at a decoy and said, "I could carve one of those!" We might even try it, give up, or actually

create one or two, "for the mantel." To persevere, it takes study...in anatomy, in technique, in history, and in composition. As stated earlier, Mike was self-taught, but had a background in art. Those strong foundations were taught to him by William "Bill" Roth, a Baltimore artist and his long-time teacher and friend. However, working full time as an insurance adjuster-investigator, and raising a son and daughter on his own, made it impossible for Mike to take classes in decoy carving. Fortunately, such accomplished artists as Bill Veasey and James D. Sprankle were turning out reference books and videos. These men became strong influences to the novice carver.

As a result, Mike's carvings exhibit a variety of influences and are ever changing; hopefully improving. Never being under anyone's tutelage, Mike's carvings do not resemble the Upper Bay School or any other the other North American regional carving styles. He borrows from several sources and adds his own touches to create an original vision of each bird. One innovation, possibly unique to Mike, is that all of his pieces since January 1993 bear a serial number that tells the year, month, species of bird, and sequential number of the piece, the materials used, his name, town, and signature. In addition, this information, as well as the



carving's disposition, price if sold, and date sold are recorded by hand in a simple composition book. His sister-in-law, Pam Gleason, once asked what he would do if he found one of his carvings on an antique store shelf. Mike laughed and said he'd record the number on its bottom to find out who got rid of it! He also admitted that he'd probably buy it back. After all, it was his creation.

Mike believes in giving value for his patrons' dollars, too. His prices are very reasonable for the amount of work and detail that goes into his decoys. "I am always amazed and grateful that someone would want one of my birds in their home or think enough of them to give as a gift." Often, Mike will receive a phone call days or weeks after a show, from someone who saw his display, and wrote down that serial number, asking, "Is 0 1 -7-BW-536 (for example) still available?" Mike will then ship the decoy or deliver it, in person. Because some of these orders are intended to be gifts for spouses, these meetings are sometimes on street corners or parking lots in out-of-the-way places. Mike recalled the time a woman from Frederick, Maryland, ordered a decoy for her husband's birthday. She asked that he call when the carving was completed, but just hang up if her husband answered. For a week, every time Mike called the husband answered! He finally got through to the wife. Six months later at a show near Frederick, the wife dragged her husband over to prove that she was not having an affair; that she really had told Mike to hang up if a man answered! In another instance, a man saw a sleeping mallard that he admired, but passed by without buying it. His wife came back, purchased the decoy as a Christmas gift, still several months away, and asked Mike to just tell her husband that it had been sold if he returned and not sell him anything else. Her husband did return and was very upset that he'd missed his opportunity and puzzled that Mike put him off buying another bird! A year later the couple returned with the husband exclaiming how upset and disappointed he had been not to get the mallard and how surprised he was when he found it under the tree! His wife just chuckled. Routinely, people ask, "Is that wood?" "Do you paint them yourself?" "That's resin, right?" Once, Mike was challenged by a smartaleck... "Do you expect to decoy birds with those decoys?" Mike replied of his own decorative pieces, "No, sir! I expect to decoy people!"

Mike's birds are found in collections throughout the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and even Finland. Several people have collected Mike's pieces since his first show in 1994 and have amassed twenty to thirty carvings in their silent aviaries. Mike's work is not limited to ducks and geese, but also includes loons, grebes, songbirds and shorebirds. His yearly production now averages about 90 to 100 pieces. Mike has created over 800 carvings as of this year. He carves and paints his birds every evening. The work done in his Perry Hall home serves as a respite from a long day of claims, investigations, telephone calls and hours of driving. With his son and daughter grown and gone from home, his Boston Terrier lays by his feet, soon to be covered in a film of saw dust as Mike carves through the night. Mike uses rasps and files, as well as a Foredom flexible shaft rotary power too. The year is divided into a few months of carving, then a few months of painting what was carved, then repeating the cycle.

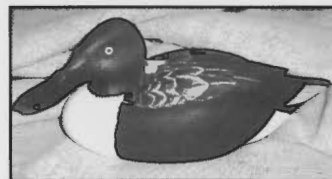
All carvings are made individually—no mass production. Mike primarily uses northern basswood, but is an opportunist who also uses white pine, tupelo, cedar, and sugar pine. Painting is done with acrylics, mostly the Jo Sonya's brand of artist's gouache.

Mike exhibits about five times a year: the Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival in Havre de Grace, the Mt. Airy Spring Fest, the Duck Fair, the Mt. Airy Fall Festival, and the Catoctin Colorfest in Thurmont, Maryland. Always ready with a story, Mike can be found wearing his tattered and stained apron and with a variety of tools, ready to demonstrate this uniquely American art form. At these mostly outdoor shows, it's common to see a crowd watching in wonder as the birds are released from their wooden prisons. Educating the public is essential if the art of decoy carving is going to continue to grow as a real art form, as it has from its origins as a hunter's tool, then to folk art. He particularly enjoys the interaction with onlookers, especially children and teens. "Live carving and painting demonstrations entertain and educate the public, as well as promote the art of decoy carving into the 21st century." "I don't hesitate to hand over what I'm working on to a kid, mom or dad so that they can get an actual feel for a decoy in progress. I love to see their eyes light up and often they will return to see if it's finished or how much progress I've made." A Harford County Public TV crew, filming an episode of *Down the Road*, recently interviewed Mike as he demonstrated his carving skills for their audience. Another way that Mike has found to share his love of decoys with the community is as a volunteer in the R. Madison Mitchell Decoy Workshop, located behind the Decoy Museum. If you are lucky enough to stop in when Mike is there, you will be treated to some hands-on decoy carving, as well as a short history of carving in the Upper Bay and North America.

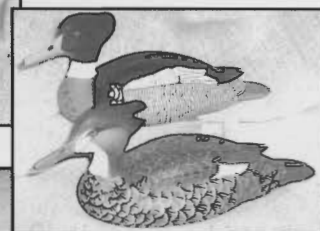
Mike loves carving and the challenge that each bird presents. "I was bowled over and humbled to be asked to be the Honorary Duck Fair Chairman this year." Some final thoughts about the art of modern decoy carving. "Ultimately, the artist's private vision bears fruit, and a loon, teal, mallard, or goose emerges. Like their live counterparts, these wooden birds are destined to migrate into the world and, maybe your home."



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We wish to give a heart felt thank-you to all of the people who volunteered their time to make the 2004 festival a success. Without the help of individuals and groups like the men and women from the National Civilian Conservation Corps, AMERICORPS from Perryville, Maryland, and The Havre de Grace High School "S.M.I.L.E.S" group this festival would not have been the success that it was.

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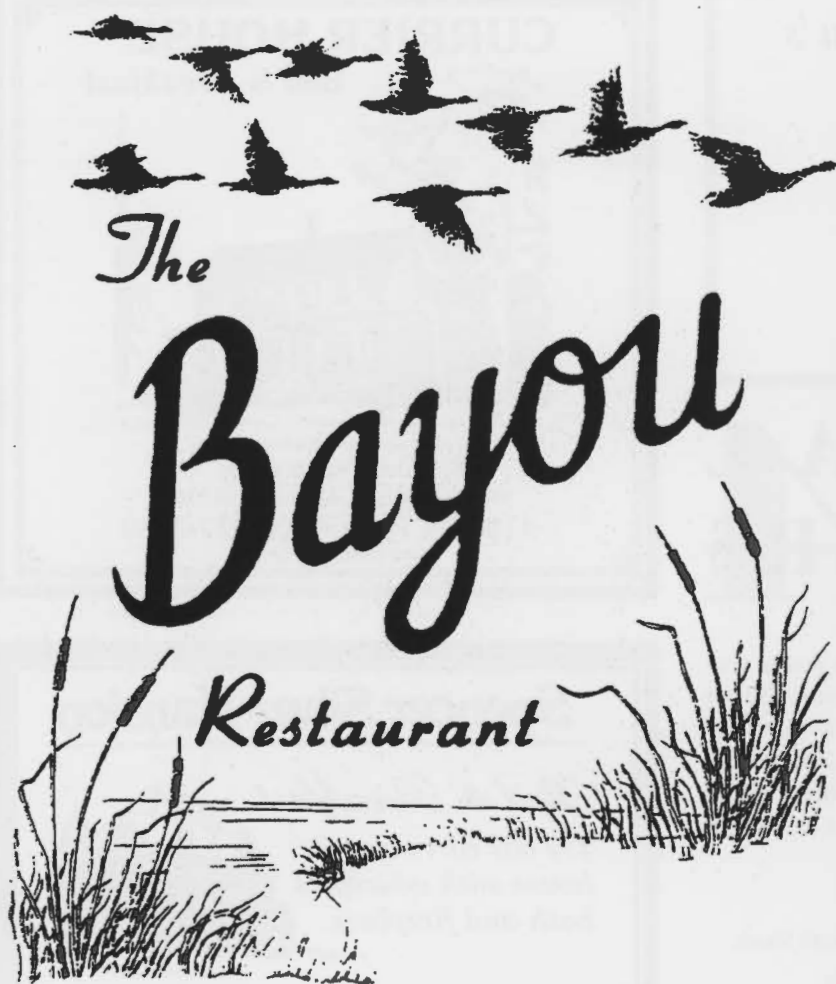
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We have three banquet rooms with seating for 30-200 guests. Our staff will tailor a menu to make your banquet memorable.



Autograph Signing Session: Ron Rue, Charlie Bryan, Jim Pierce, Charlie Joiner and Allan Schaubert



Capt. Bill Collins and John O. Mitchell in Mitchell Shop. Photo by: R. Broth

Ed Watts FESTIVAL CHAIRMAN Festival Review 2004

It's that time again. Our 23rd Havre de Grace Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival is now over and what a great festival it was. I think it would amaze people to look behind the scenes and see all the hard work so many people put together just to make this event successful. Let me give you a thumbnail sketch.

As soon as the Festival is over we have a meeting to critique our event. The Festival meetings are open to all that participate—exhibitors, volunteers and vendors—and we welcome their input. We take the month of July off and then start planning in August for next year's Festival. Monthly meetings are held. Committees organize, evaluate and plan next year's events so that we can make the upcoming Festival special edition of the "Canvasback." This all sounds very simple but many hours are committed to make the festival better than last year's.

The staff, Board members and volunteers work hundreds of hours

trying to improve each show. Our Museum staff fields many questions and, yes, they listen to complaints—which have been few.

Our volunteers are there to set up the schools and the Museum preparing for the opening hour. The exhibitors are there hours before the doors open. Carts, boxes, and everything imaginable is used to set up their tables. As we approach opening hour the tables are covered and they display historic works of art, beautiful carvings, paintings and supplies. What was once open spaces with tables has been converted to the "Havre de Grace Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival."

Many thanks to everyone and a special thanks to Margaret Jones our Events Coordinator.

If you have not attended our Decoy and Wildlife festival you are missing one of the best Festivals of its kind. Don't miss next year's event. There are great surprises awaiting each of you.



Museum docent "Gunning the Flats"

Be sure to read Margaret Jones' review on page 4.



High School Exhibitor — Photo by: R. Broth
Summer Canvasback 2004



Jim Britton — Decoy Festival — 2005 Honorary Chairman



Greyson Chesser

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

23rd ANNUAL DECOY FESTIVAL AUCTION RESULTS

Lot	Price Realized	Item	Lot	Price Realized	Item
1.	\$150	Buffle Head Pair by Allen Purner, signed.	29.	\$ 50	Stoney Pt. decoy. Wood duck, late 70's.
2.	\$ 45	Green-winged Teal Sleeper Hen by Giannetto	30.	\$ 90	Coot by Joe Verdin. Bayou Blue, Louisiana, 1960's
3.	\$ 30	Green-winged Teal Drake by Norman Williams, cork, signed and dated 1981.	31.	\$ 30	Old cork and wood Canvasback Decoy, unknown maker
4.	\$ 90	Buffle Head Pair by Giannetto	32.	\$130	Old Upper Bay Canvasback, unknown maker
5.	\$ 40	Blue-winged Teal Drake by J. Seibert, signed and dated 1989. Delaware River Decoy Co. stamp	33.	\$110	Canvas Swan by Frank Muller. Contemporary.
6.	\$ 40	Blue-winged Teal Drake by Jim Wright, Double Creek, Maryland, signed and dated 1964	34.	\$ 80	Canvas Goose by Frank Muller. Contemporary.
7.	\$120	Green-winged Teal Pair by Bill Collins, signed and dated 1990	35.	\$ 80	Cork Goose by Frank Muller. Contemporary.
8.	\$130	Ruddy Duck Pair by Patrick Vincenti, signed and dated 2001	36.	\$700	Canvasback Pair by Charlie Joiner, signed and dated 1995
9.	\$190	Ruddy Duck pair by Bill Schaubert, signed and dated 1994	37.	\$ 45	Pintail Drake by Steve Lay, signed.
10.	\$500	Canvasback sinkbox pair by Robert Litzenberg, signed.	38.	\$ 45	Pintail Hen by Steve Lay, signed.
11.	\$170	Pintail Pair by Jim Pierce. Original paint. Signed "Jim Pierce" and stamped "JP" Havre de Grace, Maryland	39.	\$ 80	Ruddy Drake by Dan Carson, signed and dated 1993
12.	\$475	Canvasback Pair Charlie Bryan. Original paint. Hi-head Drake and Hen Sleeper. Signed and dated 1993. Middle River, Maryland	40.	\$ 60	Black Duck, resting, by Patrick Vincenti, signed and dated 1990
13.	\$110	Black Duck by Sam Barnes. Cork black duck in worn original paint. Havre de Grace, Maryland	41.	\$ 40	Natural wood Swan, varnished.
14.	\$400	Canvasback Drake by Jim Currier in old working paint. Havre de Grace, Maryland	42.	\$120	Canada Goose from the rig of Bill Sills of Havre de Grace, circa 1950's. Original paint.
15.	\$220	Drake Canvasback by Dick Simperts in working repaint with "J" stamped in lead keel. Havre de Grace, MD	43.	\$130	Canvasback Drake with old working repaint; Cecil County.
16.	\$250	Drake Blue Bill. Original paint. Branded "GDB". From Dave Blackiston's rig. Chestertown, Maryland	44.	\$210	R. Madison Mitchell Cork Goose branded RNB. Original paint.
17.	\$375	R. Madison Mitchell, Havre de Grace, MD - original paint Gray Coot with 20° head turn, gunning paint patterns, and without repair or neck crack. The decoy is signed and dated 1978 and the weight and staple are still affixed.	45.	\$175	Black Head Hen by James Holly circa 1890's. Old working repaint.
18.	\$180	Capt. Jess Urie, Rock Hall, MD - large, robust circa 1940/50 Canvasback decoy in attractive Madison Mitchell paint and without repair except for gunner's neck staples	46.	\$450	Canvasback Drake by John Graham circa 1880's. Old working repaint. Good condition.
19.	\$100	R. Madison Mitchell, Havre de Grace, MD Bluebill Hen, circa 1950 in old partially worn original mellow paint condition and without repair. The original weight and staple are still affixed. The shot imbedded on the right side body and head is from use on the lower Potomac River.	47.	\$200	Canvasback Drake by Chauncey Reynolds of Cecil County. Repaint.
20.	\$180	August Heinfield, Rock Hall, MD - High chime-line Canvasback drake without repair in what appears to be original paint with some chipping to the white and black areas of the body revealing a white primer coat.	48.	\$475	Leonard Pryor Canvasback Drake from Chesapeake City. Old working repaint.
21.	\$185	Bluebill pair by Bill Litzenberg of Elkton, MD, in original paint. (Pop Sampson heads, Jimmy Pierce bodies and paint. Bill put it all together)	49.	\$375	Black Duck by R. Madison Mitchell, circa 1960's. Original paint. Good condition.
22.	\$225	Ruddy Duck Pair by Bill Schaubert. These are Limited Edition Birds - mint.	50.	\$350	Canvasback Drake by Madison Mitchell circa 1960's. Original paint. Good condition.
23.	\$270	Canvasback Drake Decoy, thought to be by Taylor Boyd of Perryville, with very rare "MT.VERNON" brand.	51.	\$225	Canvasback Pair by Allen Purner, Elkton, MD. Original paint, excellent condition.
24.	\$400	Mason Mallard, circa 1910. Good paint.	52.	\$150	Canvasback Drake, possibly Sam Barnes, with old working repaint and line and anchor.
25.	\$ 75	Sam Barnes Cork Canvasback, circa 1920, from Alvin Decker Gun Rig	53.	\$ 50	Lockard style Canvasback Drake by Parker.
26.	\$140	Robert L. McKinney High head Canvasback, circa 1930- 40 by. Initialed on weight.	54.	\$ 70	Mitchell style Canvasback Drake. Oversize sleeper by Parker.
27.	\$350	Jim Holly Canvasback, circa 1910	55.	\$ 75	Cork Canvasback Drake by Sam Barnes of Havre de Grace. Repaint.
28.	\$ 35	Jim Pierce Teal. Copy of a "Holly" Teal. Circa 1975. Decoy is split underneath. Not signed.	55.A	\$450	Widgeon Pair by 2004 Honorary Chairman, Grayson Chesser.
			55.B	\$475	Gadwall Pair by 2004 Honorary Chairman, Grayson Chesser.
			55.C	\$650	Wood Duck Pair by 2004 Honorary Chairman, Grayson Chesser.
			56.	\$130	Holly Black Head Drake circa 1880's. Old working repaint.
			57.	\$300	Henry Davis / Asa Owens Canvasback Drake. Original paint. Good condition. From Perryville, MD.
			58.	\$150	R. Madison Mitchell Canada Goose, Havre de Grace, MD. Repaint. From the rig of Bill Sills.
			59.	\$ 70	Canada Goose from the rig of Bill Sills of Havre de Grace, circa 1950's. Original paint.
			60.	\$140	James Holly Redhead Drake, Havre de Grace, MD. Circa 1880's, with old working repaint.
			61.	\$100	Canvasback Drake, unknown maker.
			62.	\$ 60	Captain Jess Urie, Rock Hall, MD Goldeneye, with possible repaint.
			63.	\$130	Canvasback Drake. Unknown maker.
			64.	\$140	Captain Jess Urie, Rock Hall, MD Black Head Drake, possibly original paint.
			65.	\$130	Madison Mitchell Canvasback Drake with repaint, circa 1940's.

Lot	Price Realized	Item
66.	\$ 40	Red Breasted Merganser Drake by Lee Waterfield, NC
67.	\$ 25	Wood Duck Drake by Lee Waterfield, North Carolina
68.	\$2400	Ward style Canada Goose by Charlie Joiner, Chestertown, MD
69.	\$ 60	Baldpate Drake by Jim Pierce. Original paint, excellent condition.
70.	\$120	Pair of Redheads by Jim Pierce. Original paint, excellent condition.
71.	\$ 45	Redhead Hen by Jim Pierce. Original paint, excellent condition.
72.	\$ 40	Blackhead Hen by Jim Pierce. Original paint, excellent condition.
73.	\$ 65	Oversize Goldeneye Hen by Jim Pierce. Original paint, excellent condition.
74.	\$ 65	Green-winged Teal Hen by Jim Pierce.
75.	\$ 25	Oversize Canvasback Hen by Jim Pierce. Molded head.
76.	\$160	Pair of Green-winged Teal by Jim Pierce.
77.	\$ 75	Oversize Swimming Black Duck by Jim Pierce.
78.	\$130	Pair of Cinnamon Teal with Sleeping Hen by Jim Pierce.
79.	\$ 35	Goldeneye Hen by Jim Pierce. Excellent condition, original paint.
80.	\$ 60	Green-winged Teal Drake by Pat Vincenti, signed and dated 1992.
81.	\$130	Brant by Bill Collins, signed and dated 1984. Excellent condition, original paint, made in R. Madison Mitchell shop.
82.	\$120	Snow Goose by Bill Collins, signed and dated 1984, made in R. Madison Mitchell shop.
83.	\$ 60	Mallard Drake by Bill Collins, signed and dated 1988.
84.	\$250	Pintail Drake by R. Madison Mitchell, signed and dated 1978. Branded BDGC. Has crack in the neck.
85.	\$ 45	Ring-necked Drake by Dave Walker, signed and dated. Original paint.
86.	\$ 80	Quarter size Swan by Pat Vincenti, signed and dated 1992, with lamp base.
87.	\$ 50	Pair of Doves by Dave Walker, signed and dated 1985.
88.	\$ 45	Dove Decoy by Capt. Harry Jobs, original paint, signed and dated 1984.
89.	\$ 70	Dove Decoy by Bill Collins, signed and dated 1984.
90.	\$ 75	Framed Print - R. Madison Mitchell and his Decoys by Paul Shertz. Artist proof.
91.	\$ 10	Poster of The Waterfowl Festival, Easton, Maryland 1988, with illustration entitled "Bad Boys".
92.	\$325	Canada Goose by R. Madison Mitchell, signed and dated 1984. Original paint.
93.	\$450	Pair of Canvasbacks with Sleeping Hen by Charlie Bryan, Middle River, Maryland, signed and dated.
94.	\$ 90	Cork body Canada Goose by Harold Haman, Delaware
95.	\$110	Mallard Pair, signed and dated 1988, by Patrick Vincenti.
96.	\$200	R. Madison Mitchell Canvasback, original paint, signed and dated 1952. Good condition.
97.	\$375	R. Madison Mitchell Black Duck, original paint, signed and dated 1976. Excellent condition.
98.	\$ 70	Capt. Harry Jobs Blue Goose, signed and dated 1987.
99.	\$ 55	Capt. Harry Jobs Snow Goose, signed and dated 1992.
100.	\$ 70	Capt. Harry Jobs Brant, signed and dated 1991.
101.	\$ 80	Mitchell style Canada Goose by Butch Parker, branded "Parker".

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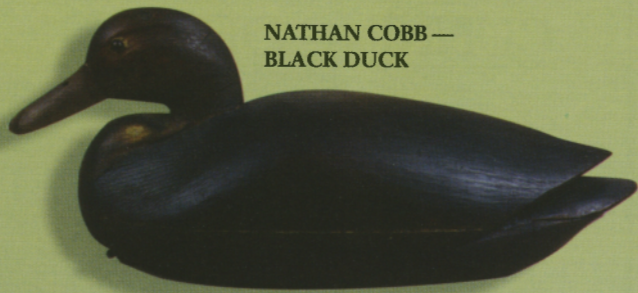

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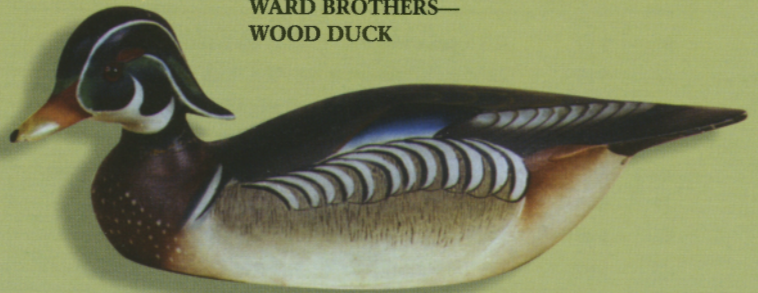
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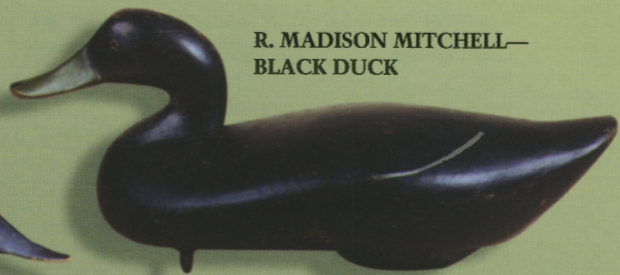
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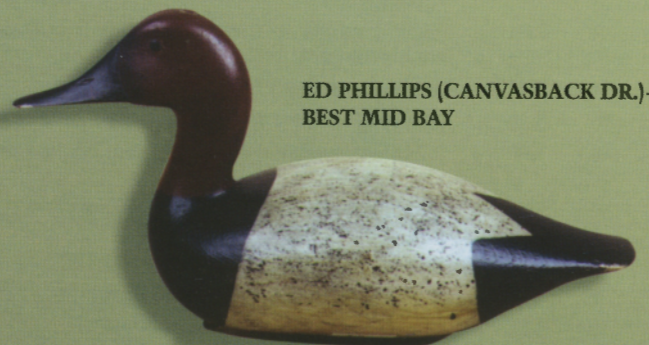
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BEST SEVERIN HALL PAINT



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BEST MID BAY



BEST NJ MERGANSER



JAMES T. HULLEY—
RED HEAD

Old Decoy Contest Review

by Jim Trimble

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY & WILDLIFE ART FESTIVAL

The 23rd annual show was held May 7-9 throughout the small old-time gunning town of Havre de Grace, Maryland, located at the top of the Chesapeake Bay. This year's Honorary Chairman was Eastern Shore of Virginia's Grayson Chesser. Chesser is known to the decoy collecting community for the quality and style of the decoy he produces. He is also a waterfowl historian, guide and proprietor of the Holden Creek Gun Club, located just below Saxis, Virginia. Chesser's gunning decoys are on temporary display at the Museum.

The Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival is the largest fund raising activity that the 18-year old Havre de Grace Decoy Museum hosts. This year's show was packed with people enjoying the sun-splashed weekend in their quest for ducks. But I am getting ahead of myself.

Thursday evening, I got a call from Larry Cook and John Cox, two collectors from East Tennessee, who were on their way to Havre de Grace for the weekend show. They wanted to stop by to look and talk ducks. Both are knowledgeable collectors, Cook especially, who has taken time in past visits to our area to track waterfowling history and photograph houses, gunning locations, and tombstones. Cook, an outdoor writer and hunter, has been chasing ducks for over 30 years. Having never been to the town during a festival, I warned him that the old decoy pickings could be slim. The two were waiting for me Friday evening with all money spent and boxes of old decoys stacked in the back of their van. It seems these two were in a shop when a local mentioned he had some ducks he wanted to sell. You know the rest of the story. In addition to early Upper Bay and Susquehanna River repainted canvasbacks by a variety of makers, Cook was able to acquire a few mid-bay original paint birds that included a Sterling family pintail and a Meekins' merganser. Cook is a brands collector and was

pleased that one of his birds purchased included a Connett brand, belonging to Eugene Connett, *Editor of Duck Shooting Along the Atlantic Flyway*. In addition, as the weekend progressed, Cook placed second in the Severin Hall Old Decoy Contest category with a Henry Lockard canvasback in mellow original Hall paint.

The Museum's festival issue magazine served as a roadmap for event, time, and location. The magazine contained two articles by this writer; one on the Potomac's Freestone Point Gunning Club, that were initially written and published in the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association's newsletter the *Potomac Flyer*. Museum President Pat Vincenti as well as other collectors of old decoys including Joe Engers, Chris Worch, Mort Kramer, John Collier, John Clayton, Jon Frank, Paul Loder, and Bill Cordrey, many accompanied by their wives, leased tables in the middle school for their gunning artifacts. This year saw several additional vendors of old decoys, with most all vendors reporting brisk activity. A total of 29 collectors, from eight states and the District of Columbia entered 98 birds in the 2nd annual Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest. This writer, along with his wife Clo, worked as festival volunteers, signing in and accepting contest decoys. Chad Tragakis and Griff Evans worked as "decoy handlers" with Evans taking responsibility for accepting category winners for Museum display. Engers, editor & publisher of *Decoy Magazine*, again this year, selected the panel of judges that included Chesser as well as Ken Trayer, author of the recently published *North American Factory Decoy* book, to judge the decoys. The ten Category winners included S.R. Smith, who won the Madison Mitchell Puddle Duck competition with an op 1936 Mitchell black duck. Engers won the New Jersey Merganser category with an op sleek and attractive unknown. Engers struck again in the Virginia Black Duck competition with a wonderful and mellow Nathan Cobb black duck,

LONG ISLAND
MERGANSERS



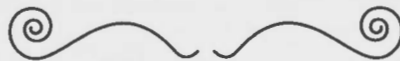
complete with serrated N. Evans was the other double category winner, winning the Mid-Bay Diving Duck category with a long-necked bold Ed Phillips op canvasback. Evan's early op Holly redhead was the winner of the Upper Bay Diving Duck category. Clayton's William Heverin op canvasback pair was the easy winner of the Heverin category. Tragakis won the Severin Hall paint contest with a long-necked op canvasback hen by an unknown maker. Jon Frank took the Ward category with a wood duck in beautiful stylish original paint. Frank's entry also claimed best in show. Other winners included Larry Laramy who won the Upper Bay Pintail category with an early Paul Gibson long-necked hen in mellow old original paint. David Bennett won the Folksie Unknown category with a pair of long sleek op mergansers from his native Long Island. Second and third place ribbon winners included John Collier, Tom East, Pat Vincenti, Mort Kramer, Lou Nolan, Larry Cook, Bruce Baynard, Jim Tolmie, and Larry Myers.

This year's auction, as in the past few years, was shy of quality old gunners. A newer pair of Charles Joiner op canvasbacks hammered for \$700. A nice Graham canvasback in old paint condition drew total bids of \$450. A Litzenberg canvasback wing duck sold for \$400. A repainted Jim Currier early canvasback in mellow old paint hammered at \$400. A bird of interest to many was an early attractive Cecil County canvasback with MT. VERNON brand that drew a number of bids, finally hammering at \$450.

On both Friday and Saturday evening, downtown was full of music with bands on many corners, all part of the "musical mile" sponsored by the Havre de Grace Arts Commission. Good friends, good food, mellow music, and a re-hash of the day's duck activities, made for pleasant evenings. Sunday morning it was back to the show for "one more acquisition." In my discussion with the vendors, most seemed pleased with the crowds who seemed to be in a buying mood.



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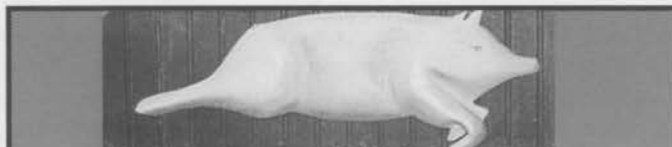
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The Cockey Family of Kent Island, Maryland

Waterfowl Hunters

Queen Anne's County's Best Known Family of Hunters and Carvers.

By James L. Trimble

A long, sleek and graceful swan illustrates the cover of the Julia-Guyette summer 1987 *Decoy Auction Catalog*. Identified as a turn of the century swan by Jim Cockey, it was made on Kent Island in Maryland's Queen Anne's County. The Maryland Historical Society featured a Cockey swan and rig mate on their decoy exhibit catalog of 1991-1992. They were undecided as to the swan's maker. The R.W. Oliver fall 1996 *Decoy Auction Catalog* cover featured yet a third similar swan, identifying it as a 19th century swan by John Cockey, Jim's father and patriarch of Queen Anne's County's best known family of carvers. As evidenced by the variety of attributions, most knowledgeable collectors agree that the maker of these beautiful Cockey swans may forever remain a mystery. Whether made by father or son, their bold form and graceful style guarantee them a position among the finest swan decoys to have floated the Chesapeake Bay.

Today, Kent Island is best known for the point where the 4-1/2 mile long Chesapeake Bay Bridge connects US 50 to Maryland's Eastern Shore. 12 miles long, and 4 1/2 miles at its widest point, it is the largest island in the Chesapeake Bay. First colonized by English speaking settlers from Virginia's Jamestown settlement in 1631, its sovereignty was challenged when Lord Baltimore arrived one year later with war ships to enforce his

claim that Kent Island belonged to Maryland. After many skirmishes and numerous casualties, Virginia, in 1657, finally recognized Maryland's proprietary rights to the island.

Prior to the completion of the first bay bridge in 1952, east bound autos traveled by ferry boat from both Annapolis and Baltimore to Claiborn and Love Point on Kent Island's Chesapeake shoreline. The early ferries were steam driven side-wheelers that eventually gave way to larger screw driven boats. Kent Island was a rural farm community with a robust seafood industry that saw very few changes for the first 250 years. With the establishment of an auto ferry in 1919, it was only a matter of time before the rural farm roads of Kent Island were straightened and paved so that the Baltimore and Washington city dwellers could reach the popular Atlantic seashore resorts.

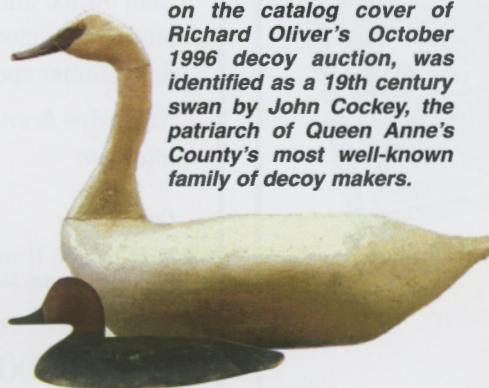
Old Point Farm, the Cockey's Kent Island ancestral home, is located on Batts Neck, along the eastern shoreline of Cox's Creek. This property was initially acquired by the Cockey Family in 1685 and was a part of substantial tobacco land holdings that the Cockey family owned

along the Chesapeake Bay's eastern and western shorelines of colonial Maryland. The 1-1/2 story "Old Point" house was built in 1722 of English bond brick and was heated by two brick fireplaces whose chimneys were flush with each gable.

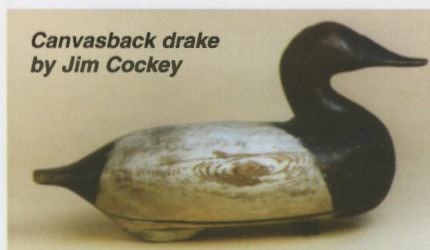
James Edward Cockey, the son of John Mordecai Cockey, a farmer and waterman, was born at Old Point in 1893. His brother Frank was born in 1895. The Batts Necks section of Kent Island was a rural farm community without running water or electricity. Country dirt roads connected the farms generally leading to the town of Stevensville or to a wharf along Cox's Creek, where sailing vessels from Baltimore delivered farm supplies and purchased farm produce. By the turn of the century before last, tobacco was no longer the cash crop. Local farmers like their father John, now raised corn, wheat and soybeans as well as flocks of turkeys for the table and market. A family garden grew vegetables for the table. The saltwater of Cox's Creek and Eastern Bay, located 1-1/2 miles to the south, provided the family with an abundance of seafood, including oysters, crabs, terrapin and fish. The father also trapped muskrats and hunted waterfowl.

Although raised on farm chores, the young Cockey boys were surrounded by saltwater, and were steeped in the ways of a waterman. Their father John, and grandfather James, were avid waterfowl hunters who hunted several of the Cockey water-

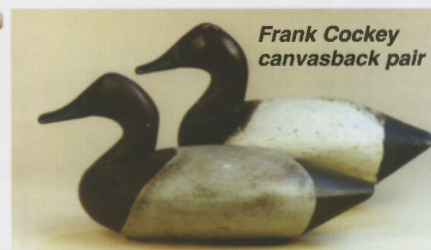
This elegant swan, featured on the catalog cover of Richard Oliver's October 1996 decoy auction, was identified as a 19th century swan by John Cockey, the patriarch of Queen Anne's County's most well-known family of decoy makers.



Redhead duck wing duck by John M. Cockey (father)



Canvasback duck by Jim Cockey



Frank Cockey canvasback pair

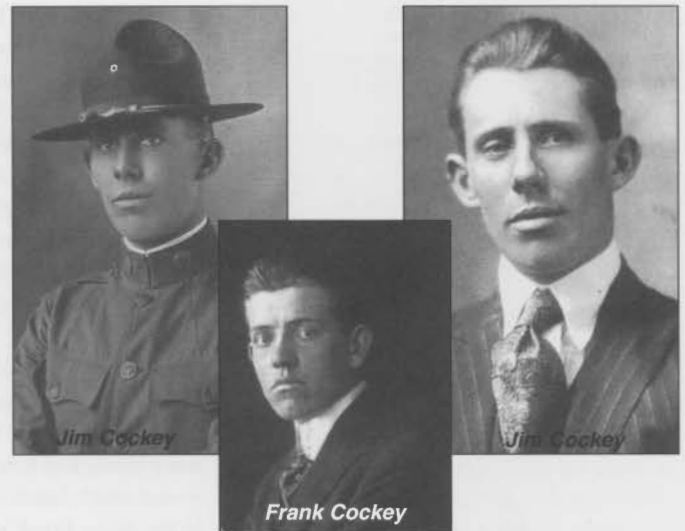
front properties. The boys grew in eager anticipation as each fall approached, knowing that the time had arrived when the skies would fill with noisy ducks that descended into their wintertime feeding habitat. To lure the wary flocks, John Cockey raised and kept live tollers. He also made his own decoys and hunted diving ducks from a floating sinkbox rig. His 9-gauge double barrel muzzleloader with a 28" barrel provided duck dinners and augmented family income.

When the boys reached school age, the parents purchased a parcel of land in Stevensville, built a house, and moved there. Their home was located on Main Street, within walking distance of the Stevensville School. Their father commuted by horse and buggy to work his 130-acre farm. John also farmed a 170-acre property on Cox's Creek, Goose Hill Farm, inherited in 1898. The boys were taken out of school when needed for work, and they also spent summers working both farms. The boys grew up hunting the Cockey properties on Batts Neck. They hunted at both their father and grandfather's side, learning first hand how to lure waterfowl within shooting range. Hunting preparation included refurbishing and replenishing the large decoy rigs under their father's watchful eye. The rig, which included upper bay decoys, carried their father's J.M. COCKEY brand. The brothers were inseparable growing up, hunting the island's marshes, rivers, creeks and bays in their untiring quest to kill ducks.

In 1918, both boys moved out of their Stevensville home. Jim enlisted in the US Army, reporting to Camp Meade, on Maryland's western shore. However the war ended one week after his enlistment, with Jim being assigned to a transportation unit at Penn State College, where he was trained as a mechanic. Upon discharge, he returned to Stevensville and opened an automobile service garage behind the family home. Frank married in 1918, and like previous Cockey generations, looked to generate income from the fertile flat soil of his island home. Frank eventually purchased the Goose Hill Farm, close to his parent's Old Point Farm on Batts Neck. Like his father, Frank also raised turkeys as well as raising and keeping live callers. 1920 Kent Island census data reflects Frank, age 24, as married, living on Batts Neck, and working as a farmer. His father, John, age 55 and married, living in Stevensville, also is listed as a farmer. James, age 26 and single, is living with his parents. His occupation is listed as mechanic, working in his garage.

The boys continued hunting together, often with their father until he passed away in 1928. The Old Point Farm, where the boys first learned to hunt, was sold prior to his death. Jim and Frank were now making their own decoys from downed telephone poles or scavenged wood. The bodies

were hand chopped and finished with a draw blade and

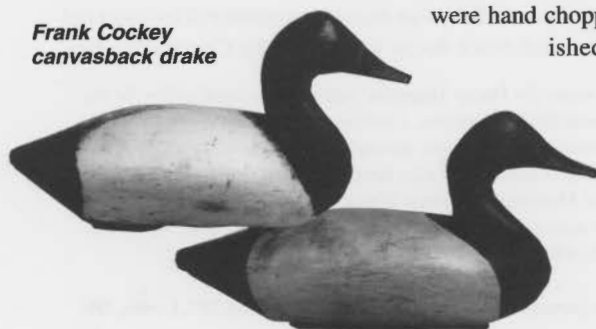


spoke shave. Jim, a gifted wood worker, started making and selling a few decoys to area hunters. Jim's service garage behind his Stevensville home, evolved to a woodworking shop with a large 25 x 50' wooden building being erected in 1930. The shop had a dirt floor and was heated with a wood burning stove. The large double wooden doors fronted the road that ran to the Annapolis (Mattapeake-Sandy Point) ferry. Painted over the doors were large 2-1/2 foot high letters that spelled out his new business—BOATS.

Jim developed a reputation as a proficient woodworker, who built quality boats and oyster tong shafts. Mel Clark, age 78 when interviewed in 1999, is a craftsman who built and repaired hand tongs for local oystermen. He had learned his trade from Cockey. He was twelve years old in 1934 when he started to work in Cockey's shop. "At that point in time, he was building quality red cedar rowing skiffs held together with copper rivets. He also made oyster tong shafts, up to 34' long," he remembered. Queen Anne's County was a top oyster producer with Kent Island's Eastern Bay being one of the largest designated hand tong areas. The local oystermen knew Cockey's reputation of producing perfectly balanced handles on these essential tools. Clark continued, "The tong shafts, when right, feel like a good wooden baseball bat." Clark explained, "you can feel the strength of the grain against the palm of your hand."

Cockey's 14 and 16 foot rowing skiffs were sold primarily to stores and marinas on the western shore. Retailers such as Western Auto, Montgomery Ward, as well as Bacharach Rasin Sporting Goods of Baltimore sold Cockey boats. Cockey's boats, built to order, included pleasure sailing vessels and yachts as well as bay workboats. One of the boats built was a 40' workboat for his brother Frank. Clark, who worked 5 years for Cockey, remembers him as a perfectionist. "It was done right, or it didn't leave the shop," said Clark. From time to time, Cockey took orders to make furniture, tables, cupboards, etc., as well as general repair work. He also worked as a contract carpenter at the Love Point Ferry Terminal. On several occasions, Jim constructed fine doll-houses, complete with furniture. He continued making decoys for himself as well as for area hunters and hunt clubs.

Each fall, Jim and Frank continued their quest of killing ducks. Jim shot a 12 gauge Winchester pump; his brother with a 12 gauge



**Frank Cockey
canvasback drake**

**Frank Cockey
canvasback hen**

KENT ISLAND MISSES A BULLET

1916 – Over 100 Kent Island, Maryland citizens descended upon Washington, DC, to protest the Federal Government's intended condemnation of their island home. At this point in time, Europe was in turmoil as Germany invaded its neighboring countries. The United States had not entered the war (WWI), but preparation was in full gear. The U.S. government identified the Chesapeake Bay's Kent Island as a suitable site for a coastal artillery range. This delegation, made up primarily of farmers and watermen, including five members of the Cockey family, protested this decision on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. John M. Cockey and his father James both participated. Another suitable Chesapeake Bay site identified was the swampy marsh lowlands located between the Gunpowder and Bush Rivers, mid-way between Baltimore and Havre de Grace, Maryland. The site was sparsely inhabited and marginal farmland at best. The shoreline properties were comprised of large tracts with few owners, all wealthy and influential financiers, industrialists, and other well-to-do East Coast sports. Located just below the Susquehanna Flats, these lowlands offered some of the finest waterfowl shooting in the United States. The established gun clubs often entertained influential government officials – U.S. Congressmen, Senators, and even a President among them. The owners applied subtle pressure on these politicians, hoping to retain control of these unique waterfowling properties. In the fall of 1917, the Kent Island delegation was advised that they could keep their island home. The U.S. Government, whose decision was based primarily on preferable rail access, condemned and took by presidential proclamation the waterfowling properties at the head of the bay. The Santo Domingo, Carroll's Island, and Philadelphia Ducking Clubs were shut down to make way for the installation of the Edgewood Arsenal. In many cases, the old clubhouses, where no expense had been spared to create luxurious comfort, were used as targets by the artillery units that soon occupied the property. Future government expansion to the north eventually took the Spesutie Island Rod and Gun Club. Current day maps identify these properties as the Edgewood Arsenal and Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

– Jim Trimble

Remington model 11-auto loader. Extension tubes increased shell capacity from five to nine. Their sinkbox was hauled to Eastern Bay, thick with celery and sego grass that attracted diving ducks, where they hunted from both the box and a blind, over a rig of about 500 decoys. The kills were for the family table with extras sold to western shore purchasers. On one occasion, these gunners provided ducks for a state political dinner held in Annapolis. Across Eastern Bay, along its eastern shore line, at this same point in time, Richard Tilghman of Talbot County was also operating a sinkbox rig. (See *Canvasback Magazine*, Winter/02 issue).

Clint Jones, a Maryland Marine Oyster Conservation Policeman who loved to hunt ducks, befriended the Cockeys. In the fall, the three sailed north some 60 miles to the Susquehanna Flats, with the Cockey built double sinkbox on board. In a 1999 interview, John Cockey, Frank's grandson, explained that the birds arrived on the flats before they appeared over Eastern Bay. Apparently the eager hunters wanted an early start to the season. "One morning the three had shot over 500 shells and Frank was sent to town to buy more shells and lunch," John related. "He returned with three bananas and a case of shells – not much lunch – but he had his priorities in order." During one of the gunning trips to the Flats, Frank's gun was stolen. A Baltimore vendor, who purchased their kills, lent Frank a new Remington Model 11-auto loader. At the end of the season, Frank returned the gun. Shortly thereafter, the vendor gave it back. This time it contained a silver name plate on the stock—"Frank B. Cockey—Goose Hill Farm." The trio continued sinkbox shooting until it was outlawed in 1934, but the hunting on Eastern Bay continued. They owned shares in a hunting shanty that was built on pontoons and floated out and then secured on Bodkin Island. The rigs always contained a number of swan confidence decoys, but were they made by Jim, or inherited from the father?

There is very little similarity in the style of the two brothers' decoys. Jim's carvings—long, graceful, and pleasing to the eye—resemble those made at the head of the Bay, in Cecil County. With a rounded body, defined chime, paddle tail and a slightly raised neck shelf, the decoy, designed to ride low in the water, looks like it was made by a boat builder. Frank's decoys, like those made by his father, have a definite early Talbot County influence. The bodies are larger with greater body mass, and have no neck shelf. The backs are rounded to the chime line with some dropping straight at a 45-degree angle to a 2" wide flat bottom. The decoy's tail is round and tapered. The majority of the decoys made by both brothers are comprised of diving ducks – canvasbacks, redheads, bluebills, and goldeneyes. A small group of wooden sinkbox decoys made by John M. Cockey, all redheads, is still in the family's possession. Of the three Cockeys, clearly Jim was the most prolific carver. Sometime during the mid-1960s, Frank's rig of 350 decoys was stolen and never recovered. A second rig, with less than 200 decoys, was made to replace them. Frank, according to family members, never sold any of his decoys. Both of the Cockey brothers carved miniatures and decoratives.

The two brothers continued to hunt together until the early 1960s. Jim Cockey died in 1969. In the mid-1960s, John began hunting with his grandfather Frank, a 10-year ritual that was ended when the bitter cold and poor circulation finally forced this 80-year-old duck hunter to retire from his life-long pursuit. Frank died in 1988.

The gunning and decoy-making tradition of the Cockeys, undoubtedly Kent Island's most famous family of waterfowl hunters and carvers, guarantee them a chapter in Queen Anne's County's sporting legacy. Unfortunately history may never shed light on the absolute identity of the maker of these wonderful swan decoys – considered by most collectors as the best and most desirable confidence decoy to float on the Chesapeake Bay.

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 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.

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THE FESTIVAL 2004

CARVING COMPETITION RESULTS

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE FLOATING—OPEN

Diver

Bufflehead

1st John Day

Merganser, Red-breasted

1st Glenn McMurdo

2nd Warren Saunders

Ruddy

1st Allen Lopez

Scaup (Greater)

1st Bharat Parekh

2nd Bill Gore

Other (Cormorant)

1st Shannon Dimmig

Best of Diver

1st Glen McMurdo:

Red-breasted Merganser

2nd Bharat Parekh: *Greater*

Scaup

3rd John Day: *Bufflehead*

Marsh

Gadwall

1st F.J. Valento

Pintail

1st Charlotte Dutton

Teal—Blue wing

1st Earl D. Nystrom

Teal—Green wing

1st Glenn McMurdo

2nd Allen Lopez

Widgeon

1st Warren Saunders

Best of Marsh

1st Glen McMurdo:

Green wing Teal

2nd F.J. Valento: *Gadwall*

3rd Warren Saunders: *Widgeon*

Best of Goose & Confidence

Swan

1st J. Ralph Nester

Other (Loon)

Ed Itter

Best of Goose & Confidence

1st J. Ralph Nester: *Swan*

2nd Ed Itter

Best of Show

1st Glen McMurdo:

Red breasted Merganser

2nd Bharat Parekh:

Greater Scaup

3rd Glen McMurdo:

Green wing Teal

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE FLOATING—NOVICE

Diver

Canvasback

1st Al Wayson

2nd William Thatcher

3rd Austin Herron

Merganser—Red breasted

1st Al Wayson

Old Squaw

1st Barbara Chiappini

Redhead

1st Mark Dill

Ring Neck Duck

1st Cecil Vicars

Ruddy

1st Hazel Goodwin

2nd Mark Dill

Scaup

1st George Buchness

2nd Joe Foster

Other (Eider)

1st Lou Masci

Best of Diver

1st Al Wayson: *Merganser*

2nd George Buchness:

Greater Scaup

3rd Lou Masci: *Eider*

Marsh

Gadwall

1st Theresa Ford

Mallard

1st Ronald Brandl

2nd Blue Pau

Shoveler

1st William Thatcher

Teal—Blue wing

1st Dwinton Morgan

Teal—Green wing

1st Ronald Goetzke

Teal—Cinnamon

Austin Herron

Wood Duck

1st Mark Dill

Widgeon

1st Al Wayson

Best of Marsh

1st Al Wayson: *Widgeon*

2nd Mark Dill: *Wood Duck*

3rd Dwinton Morgan:

Blue wing Teal

Best of Goose & Confidence

Other (Loon)

1st Roy Dewalt

Best of Goose & Confidence

1st Roy Dewalt

Best in Show

1st Roy Dewalt: *Loon*

2nd Al Wayson: *Merganser*

3rd Al Wayson: *Widgeon*

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE FLOATING— INTERMEDIATE

Diver

Canvasback

1st George Van Wyen

Merganser—Hooded

1st Larry Windon

2nd Larry Windon

Ruddy

1st Joseph Chiappini

2nd Larry Windon

Scaup (Greater)

1st Marsha Webb

2nd Joe Dollard

Best of Diver

1st Marsha Webb: *Greater Scaup*

2nd George Van Wyen: *Canada*

3rd Joseph Chiappini: *Ruddy*

Marsh

Black Duck

1st George Van Wyen

2nd Larry Windon

Gadwall

1st William H. Miller

Mallard

1st Frank Dagostin

Shoveler

1st Larry Windon

2nd Rodney Dennis Lee

3rd Larry Windon

HM Larry Windon

Wood Duck

1st Gary R. Stenger

Best of Marsh

1st George Van Wyen:

Black Duck

2nd Frank Dagostin: *Mallard*

3rd Larry Windon: *Shoveler*

Best of Goose & Confidence

Swan

1st Charles Hutson

Grebe

1st Frank Dagostin

Best of Goose & Confidence

1st Frank Dagostin: *Grebe*

2nd Charles Hutson: *Swan*

Best in Show

1st Marsha Webb: *Greater Scaup*

2nd George Van Wyen:

Canvasback

3rd George Van Wyen: *Black Duck*

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE NON-FLOATING—NOVICE

Waterfowl

1st Sam Grasso

2nd Sam Grasso

3rd Matt Chaney

HM Ed Blackburn

HM Ronald Brandl

HM Jerome P. Geurts

HM Beulah Houchins

HM Kyle Moore

HM John Contie

HM William Grill

Shorebirds

1st Leon Boninu

2nd R.P. Wischhusen

Upland Game Birds

1st Theresa Ford

Birds of Prey

1st William Grill

2nd Donald Cox

THE FESTIVAL 2004 CARVING COMPETITION RESULTS

3rd Andrea Sheiner

Songbirds

1st Hazel Goodwin

2nd Isabel Fields

3rd Beulah Houchins

Seabirds

1st Andrea Shreiner

Best of Show

1st Sam Grasso: *Black Duck*

2nd Hazel Goodwin:

Hummingbird

3rd William R. Grill: *Kestrel*

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE NON-FLOATING— INTERMEDIATE

Waterfowl

1st Ernie Mauldin

2nd Samuel Wise

Shorebirds

1st Gary Stenger

2nd Ernie Mauldin

3rd James Miller

Upland Game Birds

1st Bill Bruchey

2nd William Ruth Jr.

Birds of Prey

1st Joseph Chiappini

2nd Earl Dennis

3rd Douglas David

Songbirds

1st Jack Bowman

2nd Jack Bowmanzeley

3rd Rodney Dennis Lee

Seabirds

2nd Raymond Eberle

Interpretive

1st Ronald Clements

2nd Raymond Eberle

3rd Ken Glassman

Best of Show

1st Joseph Chiappini:

Screech Owl

2nd Gary Stenger: *Greater Yellow*

Legs

3rd Bill Bruchey:

California Quail

Miniature—Open

Waterfowl

1st Earl Nystrom

2nd Earl Nystrom

3rd J. Ralph Nester

HM Earl Nystrom

HM Glenn McMurdo

Shorebirds

1st Richard Schepis

Upland Game Birds

1st Earl Nystrom

Birds of Prey

1st Richard Schepis

Songbirds

1st Glenn McMurdo

2nd Charlotte Dutton

3rd Earl Nystrom

Seabirds

1st Earl Nystrom

2nd Ted Alderman

Best of Show

1st Richard Schepis: *Screech Owl*

2nd Earl Nystrom: *Egyptian*

Goose

3rd Earl Nystrom: *Prairie*

Chicken

Miniature—Intermediate

Shorebirds

1st Earl Nystrom

2nd Amy Maddox

3rd Earl Nystrom

HM Amy Maddox

Birds of Prey

1st Earl Nystrom

Songbirds

1st Samuel Wise

Seabirds

1st James Miller

2nd Amy Maddox

3rd Samuel Wise

Best of Show

1st James Miller: *Artic Tern*

2nd Earl Nystrom: *Avocet*

3rd Earl Nystrom: *Barn Owl*

“WHITEY FRANCK” SLICK DECOY

Diver

Canvasback

1st Jeff Beach

Golden Eye

1st George Joseph Schroeder Jr.

Merganser—Hooded

1st Bill Gore

Scaup (Lesser)

1st Lee Burcham

Best of Diver

1st

2nd

3rd

Marsh

Mallard

1st Charles Hutson

Pintail

1st Warren Saunders

Teal, Blue wing

1st Gary Lawrence

Wood Duck

1st Warren Saunders

Widgeon

1st Jeff Beach

2nd Ken Glassman

Best of Marsh

1st

2nd

3rd

Best of Goose & Confidence

Brant

1st Len Burcham

Best of Goose & Confidence

1st

2nd

Best in Show

1st Jeff Beach

2nd Jeff Beach

3rd Warren Saunders

GUNNING DECOY

Diver

Bufflehead

1st William S. Belote

2nd William S. Belote

3rd Jim Tolmie

HM Richard Belote

Canvasback

1st Allan R. Fry

2nd Allan R. Fry

3rd Scott Russell

Golden Eye

1st James Romig

2nd Jeff Fitzhugh

Merganser—Red breasted

1st Jeff Fitzhugh

2nd Richard Belote

Merganser—Hooded

1st Gary Lawrence

Old Squaw

1st Jim Tolmie

Redhead

1st Russell Rhine

Ring Neck Duck

1st Allan R. Fry

2nd Allan R. Fry

3rd James Romig

HM Russell Rhine

Ruddy

1st Gary Lawrenceini

2nd Richard Belote

3rd Jim Tolmie

Scaup

1st James Romig

2nd James Romig

3rd Scott Russell

HM Scott Russell

Best of Diver

1st Allan R. Fry: *Canada*

2nd Allan R. Fry:

Ring Neck Duck

3rd William Belote: *Bufflehead*

Marsh

Black Duck

1st F. J. Valento

2nd James Romig

Mallard

1st Allan R. Fry

2nd James Romig

Pintail

1st James Romig

2nd Jim Tolmie

3rd James Romig

Shoveler

1st James Romig

2nd Jim Romig

3rd Gary Lawrence

Teal, Blue wing

1st Gary Lawrence

Teal, Green wing

1st Jeff Fitzhugh

THE FESTIVAL 2004

CARVING COMPETITION RESULTS

2nd Jeff Fitzhugh
3rd James Romig

Wood Duck
1st James Romig
2nd James Romig

Best of Marsh

1st Allan R. Fry: *Mallard*
2nd F. J. Valento: *Black Duck*
3rd Jeff Fitzhugh:
Green wing Teal

Best of Goose & Confidence

Canada
1st Richard Belote
2nd Lester Orsburn

Other (Scoter)
1st Jim Tolmie

Swan
1st Lester Orsburn

Coot
1st Scott Russell
2nd Jim Tolmie

Best of Goose & Confidence

1st Jim Tolmie: *Scoter*
2nd Lester Orsburn: *Swan*
3rd Richard Belote: *Canada*

Best in Show

1st Allan R. Fry: *Mallard*
2nd Jim Tolmie: *Scoter*
3rd Allan R. Fry: *Canvasback*

Working Shorebird

1st James Gayhardt
2nd Ronald Rosciszewski
3rd Frank Dagostin

Cocktail

1st J. Ralph Nester: *Canvasback*
2nd Dwinton Morgan: *Bufflehead*
3rd Richard Belote: *Wood Duck*

Fish—Novice

Freshwater
1st Donald Cox
2nd Richard Bagley
3rd Richard Bagley
HM Ames Belote
HM Richard Bagley

Best of Show

1st Donald Cox: *Large Mouth Bass*

2nd Richard Bagley: *Small Mouth*
3rd Richard Bagley: *Blue Gill*

RIVER GUNNING DECOY

Diver

Bufflehead
1st Jason Russell
2nd Jason Russell
3rd Kurt Zulauf

Canvasback
1st Jason Russell
2nd Scott Russell
3rd Jason Russell
HM Eric Borneman
HM George William
HM William Kell II
HM Tim McEntire

Golden Eye
1st George William
2nd George William
3rd Tim McEntire
HM Jason Russell

Merganser—Red breasted
1st William J. Kell II
2nd William J. Kell II
3rd Caz Russell

Merganser—Hooded
1st Gary Lawrence

Old Squaw
1st William J. Kell II
2nd George William
3rd William J. Kell II

Redhead
1st Scott Russell
2nd Scott Russell

Ring Neck Duck
1st Caz Russell
2nd Scott Russell
3rd Tim McEntire
HM Phil Walters

Ruddy
1st George Williams
2nd Gary Lawrence

Scaup
1st Scott Russell
2nd Jason Russell
3rd James Romig
HM George William
HM Tim McEntire
HM William Kell II

Scoter
1st Scott Russell
2nd Jason Russell

Best of Diver

1st Jason Russell: *Bufflehead*
2nd Jason Russell: *Canvasback*
3rd Scott Russell: *Scoter*

Marsh

Black Duck
1st James Romig
2nd Caz Russell
3rd Robert Barrow

Gadwall
1st Kurt Zulauf
2nd Jason Russell
3rd Tim McEntire
HM Jason Russell

Mallard
1st James Romig
2nd George William
3rd William Kell II
HM Tim McEntire
HM Robert Barrow
HM Tim McEntire

Pintail
1st Jason Russell
2nd James Romig
3rd James Romig

Shoveler
1st George William
2nd Gary Lawrence

Teal, Blue wing
1st Gary Lawrence

Teal, Green wing
1st Gary Lawrence
2nd George William
3rd George William
HM Robert Barrow

Teal, Cinnamon
1st William J. Kell II
2nd William J. Kell II

Wood Duck
1st James Romig
2nd Jason Russell
3rd James Romig
HM George William

Widgeon
1st George William
2nd George William
3rd Tim McEntire

HM George William
Pintail, Yellow Bill
1st George William

Best of Marsh

1st Jason Russell: *Pintail*
2nd James Romig: *Black Duck*
3rd: *Teal*

Best of Goose & Confidence

Canada
1st Jeff Lucas
Brant
1st George William
2nd George William
3rd Tim McEntire
HM William J. Kell II

Blue Goose
1st Unknown Carver

Coot
1st Jason Russell
2nd Scott Russell

Best of Goose & Confidence

1st George William: *Brant*
2nd Jason Russell: *Coot*
3rd Unknown Carver: *Blue Goose*

Best in Show

1st Jason Russell: *Bufflehead*
2nd George William: *Brant*
3rd Jason Russell: *Pintail*

YOUTH

Gunning—Divers

1st Jimmy Nester III
2nd Lera Romig

Gunning—Marsh

1st J. Ralph Nester
2nd Olivia Dutton

Decorative—Songbird

1st Aaron Felker

Fish—Decoy

1st Samantha Vest

Best of Show Youth

1st Jimmy Nester III: *Bufflehead*
2nd J. Ralph Nester:
Green wing teal
3rd Olivia Dutton: *Wood Duck*

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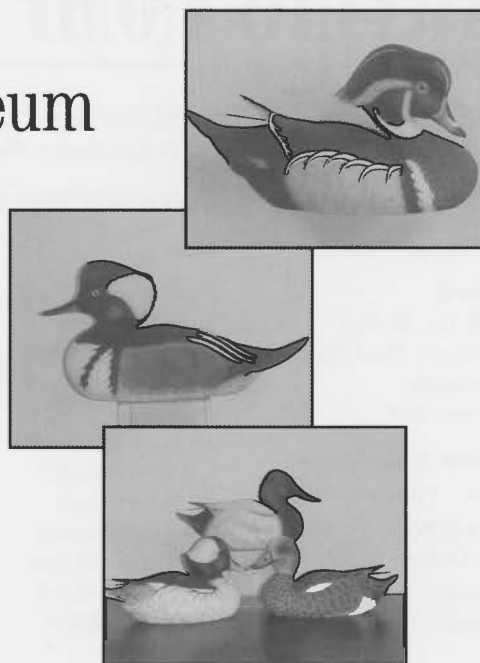
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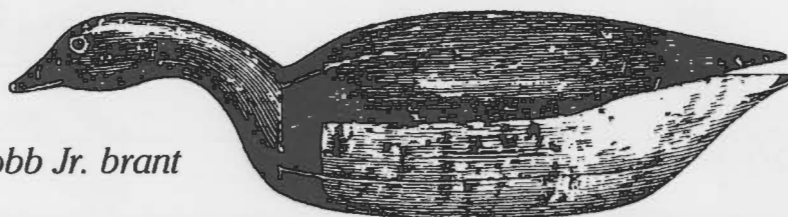
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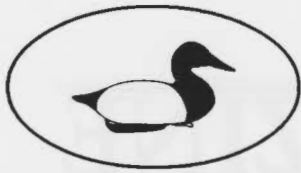


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Education Corner

by Margaret Jones

The end of April through the second week of June brought a number of school groups. The Museum was host to approximately 496 students and parents. Most of the parents and students were first time visitors to the Museum. They were introduced to the Museum by the R. Madison Mitchell diorama narration followed by "What is a Decoy" activity and ending with a carving demonstration performed by either Noble Mentzer or Jeanne Hiss. New this spring was a program developed in cooperation with the 4th Grade school curriculum. Students received a program developed to dramatize the delicate balance of "Economy vs. Ecology." With the help of Perry Hargis, students, parents and teachers were given a tour of "Gunning the Flats" and watched the video "Wings of Wood" followed by a lively discussion of the environmental effects of pollution and natural disasters, such as hurricane Agnes, on the Susquehanna Flats and the decline of grass beds and ducks. The program ended with each student making a decoy from cattails.

Additional new programs are in the works and are being developed with the assistance of several teachers from Havre de Grace Elementary school. The programs will include a number of mandated state educational objectives which every student in

Maryland is required to meet in various subjects. We will be incorporating writing, social studies, science, art and math educational objectives into these new programs. The current program outlines will include some additional trips to the Museum as well as Museum personnel visiting the classrooms. These new programs will be done, initially, with the elementary school and will be expanded to other grade levels as they develop and evolve.

Following the successful visit by Girl Scout troop 2147 from Oceanside, NY, the Museum has been approached by both Boy and Girl scouting units asking for assistance with badges and community service projects. One Girl Scout successfully completed requirements for a Museum badge and an Eagle Scout candidate will begin work on his Eagle Scout project the end of July. During the Duck Fair this September, several Girl Scout Gold Award and Silver Award candidates will be conducting programs for children. We are expecting an exciting time working with Scouts and introducing them, not only to the Decoy Museum, but helping them further their Scouting careers. Stop in during the Duck Fair and offer your encouragement to these boys and girls. We will have all their stories and projects in the "Museum News."

Student Art Show – May 2004

Photos by: L. Heppner



**WINNING
ART WORK
BY:**

Jeff Michalski
Havre de Grace
High School

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 or visit their website at www.wardmuseum.org.

The Decoy Museum's Exhibits

Duck Fair Chairman Exhibit, Main Gallery - September through October
Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit, Second Floor - September through October

September 2004

Friday 10th

"Swing into Fall," Golf Tournament at The Wetlands Golf Club, 740 Gilbert Road, Aberdeen, MD. Includes cart, dinner, beer, wine, soda, door prizes. Call (410) 272-2325 or visit www.harfordmd.com for more information.

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th

17th Annual Duck Fair held on the grounds of the Bayou Condominiums and the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Enjoy a day of family fun. Enter in the "Ugliest Duck" contest. All you need to do is make a duck out of anything. No age categories. Winner is voted on by the public. Duck races, decoy painting, retrieving dog demonstrations and more. A live auction will be held on Saturday. So much to do in two days of fun!

Friday 17th

"Margarita Cruise" on the Skipjack Martha Lewis with Jimmy Buffett tunes, and light refreshments. The cruise departs from 100 Congress Ave., Havre de Grace. Call (410) 939-4078 for more information.

Saturday 18th

Nature & Historical Walk of the North Park Trail. Meet 10 am at the Lock House. Wear appropriate shoes. Walk lasts approximately one hour.

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th

Fall Harvest Festival & Crafts. 11 am - 5 pm at the Stepping Stone Museum, 461 Quaker Bottom Rd, Havre de Grace. Scarecrow making, straw maze, hayrides and more. Call (410) 939-2299 for more information.

October 2004

Sunday 10th

Swanfest. Held at Swan Harbor Farm, 11 am-4 pm, 401 Oakington Road, Havre de Grace. All types of fall harvest activities will take place on these beautiful grounds. Call (410) 939-6767 for more information.

Saturday 16th

Nature & Historical Walk of the North Park Trail. Meet 10 am at the Lock House. Wear appropriate shoes. Walk lasts approximately 1 hour.

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th

Indian Pow Wow held on the Lock House grounds from 10 am - 5 pm. Enjoy a weekend of traditional Indian dancing, drumming, trading and food. Call (410) 939-5780 for more information.

Exhibits Closing October 31st

Duck Fair Chairman Exhibit, Main Gallery & Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit, 2nd Floor Gallery

November 2004

Saturday 6th

The 18th Anniversary Dinner at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace. Celebrate 23 years of history with good food, fun, friends and a live auction. Proceeds directly benefit the Museum. The doors open at 6 pm. Call the Museum for ticket and reservation information.

Friday 12th, Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th

Easton's Waterfowl Festival. Call (410) 822-4567 or visit www.waterfowlfestival.org for advance ticket sales or more information.

December 2004

Saturday 4th

Vintage Christmas Celebration at Fiore Winery, 3026 Whiteford Rd, Pylesville, MD. Full sit down cuisine paired with their award winning wines. Call (410) 879-4007 for more information.

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th

Christmas Open House at the Steppingstone Museum, 461 Quaker Bottom Rd, Havre de Grace.

Sunday 12th

Candlelight Tour & Carver Celebration. Enjoy the museum's open house and holiday decorations. Stroll through the museum and see the "Duck Head" Christmas tree. Visit with decoy carvers exhibiting and selling their work. Take advantage of the special Gift Shop sales on items perfect for gift giving. The fall raffle will be drawn at 8 pm. The museum is one of the stops on the Candlelight Tour. Tickets for the tour are available at the museum. Museum hours are 11 am - 8 pm.

Sunday 12th

32nd Annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Havre de Grace. Tour various historic homes, museums, churches, shops and Bed & Breakfasts from 4 pm - 8 pm. Call (410) 939-5780 for more information.

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Sand Rite Drum Sander \$350.00

Craftsman 12" Band Saw with extra blades \$150.00

Call Bill Fetterman at 410-364-5278

Weekend Carving Demonstrations

at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

Saturday September 4, 2004 Sunday September 5, 2004	Mike Gleason John Ingoglia	Saturday November 6, 2004 Sunday November 7, 2004	Mike Gleason OPEN
Saturday September 11, 2004 Sunday September 12, 2004	Duck Fair Duck Fair	Saturday November 13, 2004 Sunday November 14, 2004	Joe Cook Frank Muller
Saturday September 18, 2004 Sunday September 19, 2004	Jeanie Hiss Bob Hess	Saturday November 20, 2004 Sunday November 21, 2004	Bob Hess Joe Cook
Saturday September 25, 2004 Sunday September 26, 2004	Joe Cook Leonard Burcham	Saturday November 27, 2004 Sunday November 28, 2004	Jeannie Hiss John Ingoglia
Saturday October 2, 2004 Sunday October 3, 2004	Joe Cook OPEN	Saturday December 4, 2004 Sunday December 5, 2004	Mike Gleason OPEN
Saturday October 9, 2004 Sunday October 10, 2004	Jeannie Hiss Joey Jobes	Saturday December 11, 2004 Sunday December 12, 2004	Jeannie Hiss Candle Light Tour
Saturday October 16, 2004 Sunday October 17, 2004	Mike Gleason Frank Muller	Saturday December 18, 2004 Sunday December 19, 2004	OPEN OPEN
Saturday October 23, 2004 Sunday October 24, 2004	Leonard Burcham John Ingoglia	Saturday December 25, 2004 Sunday December 26, 2004	CLOSED OPEN
Saturday October 30, 2004 Sunday October 31, 2004	Joe Cook 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!

17th Annual Decoy Museum Duck Fair

September 11th and 12th, 2004

On the grounds of the Bayou
Condominiums
and the
Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10-4

Great family day, food, activities,
demonstrations, auctions, lots of
decoys and wildlife art!

Please consider signing up for
our annual whittling contest!

This is a fun event that makes a little
extra (needed) income for the Museum!



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