

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

Collection

Winter 2005 Vol. 14 No. 1

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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 Edson Gray decoy's from the exhibit currently on display at the Decoy Museum.



FROM THE DIRECTOR



I am delighted to be the new director of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. It is a museum with a solid foundation and excellent potential. Moreover, as all of you know, it sits in a glorious location on the Chesapeake Bay in a delightful town with fine possibilities for the community to further develop its heritage tourism.

The selection of a new director is always a two-way decision: the Board interviews the candidate and the candidate evaluates the organization. From the beginning, I was impressed with the Board leadership of Pat Vincenti and the commitment of every Board member I met as well as several other supporters and community leaders I asked to meet. And not incidentally, it was also evident that staff members have worked very hard to ensure the continued success of the Museum.

I have discovered a museum that strives to achieve the best standards of collection care, educational programs, and fiscal responsibility. Your success in reaching those goals is recognized by our professional association since we are one of only 17 museum organizations in the state of Maryland accredited by the American Association of Museums. The Museum's Board is committed to achieving re-accreditation, a process that must begin this year. Therefore, the Board and I are soon to begin to develop a strategic long-range plan for the Museum.

With such a foundation and some hard work, we all have much to look forward to for the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum!

Richard Flint Museum Director Lunch • Dinner • Pub • Banquet Room



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> Havre de Grace Decoy Museum 215 Giles Street Havre de Grace, MD 21078 (410) 939-3739

From the President



Let me first tell you that your Board has been successful in its search for a new Executive Director for the Museum. As you may recall, in my last letter to you I emphasized that we felt it was imperative that our new director have a strong sense for business as well as a strong background in the museum field and we believe we have found that combination in our new director. Dick Flint has spent most of his professional life in the museum field but more recently worked for seven years with a large international company as a financial advisor serving small businesses and individuals. Dick has some interesting experience in developing and managing museums that you can read about elsewhere in this issue. As the Decoy Museum looks to the future, the Board and I have great confidence with Dick Flint as our new Executive Director.

As we look to the future, we do not forget the many people who have demonstrated their dedication to the museum for many years. I wish to acknowledge the strong support that the late John Nickel gave to the Museum for so many years. John was active in all of our Festivals, was a regular weekend carving demonstrator, and in every possible way an avid supporter of the Museum. Whenever we needed him at the Museum, John was always there for us and we express our condolences to his family.

Early last October, the decoy community lost another stalwart with the passing of Bob Coleman. Following his retirement many years ago, Bob was able to pursue his true love of creating, collecting, and selling decoys which he did through his store in Chestertown, "The Flyway Gallery." As anyone who met him knew, Bob loved to share a good story and he treasured all the friends he made through decoys. He was a great friend of Charlie "Speed" Joiner and the joke was that if you wanted a Charlie Joiner decoy you had to go through Bob Coleman. Bob relished living by the water and was an avid shooter who most enjoyed trap and sporting clays. Bob was never without dogs at his side and I vividly remember his throwing a stick and soon three or four retrievers were on the same stick in the water. Our condolences go to his wife and family and to his good friend Charlie Joiner.

As we celebrate having known such fine people as John Nickel and Bob Coleman, we also celebrate the arrival of Dick Flint. The Board and I feel we have a very competent and capable new director who will help move us forward. Please introduce yourselves to him if you have not yet met him.

Sincerely,

ptaik Vincent

Patrick Vincenti President

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.

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The 12th Annual R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Dinner

March 11, 2005 at the Bayou Restaurant

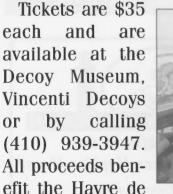
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made by Charlie "Speed" Joiner including a pair of miniature canvasback decoys. Many other items will be for sale including a Mitchell quilt made in 1990. This beautiful quilt was donated by Mrs. Elsie B. Field, a niece of Mr. Mitchell. The silent auction will be filled with a wide variety of interesting and unique items.







Grace Decoy Museum through the purchase of artifacts, decoys representing all levels of decoy makers and other appropriate projects.

ABOVE AND LEFT: Items for bid during 2004 Dinner

BELOW: Presentation of awards to Harold Boccia (left) and Marsha Bocia (right) by R. Madison "Mitch" Mitchell during 2004 Dinner.



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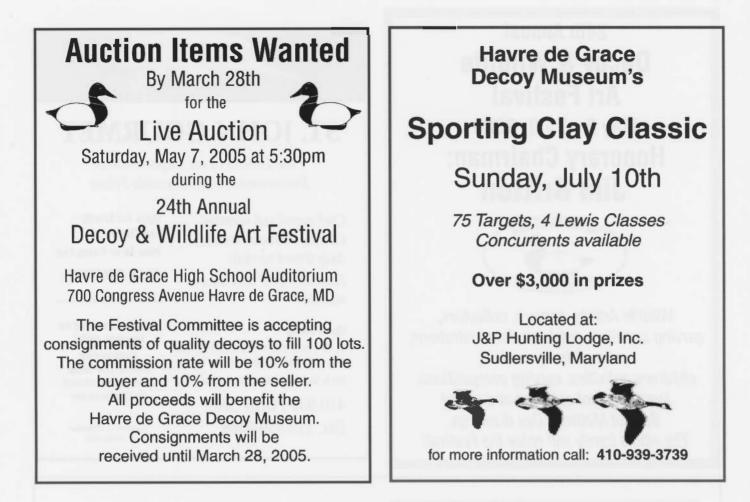


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J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest

The 3rd annual Old Decoy Contest to be held in conjunction with the 2005 Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival will be held Saturday, May 7th at the Havre de Grace 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. At approximaetly 1:00pm, the public will be invited to review the roped off and secured tables once the judges have made their selections. 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 Goose
- * Best Henry Lockard-any species
- * Best Upper Bay Matched Pair
- * Best Mid-Bay/Eastern Shore Redhead (non-Ward)
- * Best New Jersey Black Duck

- * Best Upper Bay decoy with iron weight
- * Best Bob McGaw
- * Best Ward Bros. Duck any species
- * Best Virginia Brant
- * Best 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. Competition issues will be resolved at the sole discretion of the competition chairman and/or competition chief judge. Any questions, please contact contest chairman, Jim Trimble @ 703-768-7264 or email potomacduck@cox.net





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Winfield Scott Jackson

(1852 - 1929)

By Gerard Wm. Wittstadt, Jr., Esquire

Throughout the late 1800's and early 1900's, five residents of Charlestown, Maryland produced thousands of the finest decoys used on the Susquehanna Flats. The "Charlestown Five" as they are now known, include Carroll Cleveland "Wally" Algard (1883-1959); George Washington "Wash" Barnes1 (1862-1915); John Black Graham (1822-1912); William Yeatman Heverin (1860-1951); and Winfield Scott Jackson (1852-1929). Although each of these gentlemen produced magnif-Jackson, who in this writer's opinion, produced what can now be described as the most aesthetically pleasing decoy made on the Upper Bay, and used on the Susquehanna Flats.

1852 was a Presidential election year in the United States, and on August 31, of that year, Winfield Scott Jackson was born, having been named after General Winfield Scott, who ran unsuccessfully on the Whig ticket against Democrat Franklin Pierce. Scott Jackson was the second son of John and Mary E. Jackson. His father was born in Cecil County in 1812, and his mother was born in 1831. The Jackson siblings included an older brother, James Henry Jackson, born in 1849; a younger sister Eugenia Jackson, born in 1858; and a brother John born in 1860. At the age of 27, Scott Jackson was living in Charlestown with his parents working along with his older brother as a farm hand. The Jackson family lived together in Charlestown until at least 1880. Little more is known of Mr. Jackson's youth, other than in the late 1800's he worked as a carpenter at the George W. Barnes Fishery at Carpenter's Point repairing boats.

It was at Carpenter's Point where Scott Jackson, Wash Barnes and Will Heverin began the production of decoys for gunning the Susquehanna Flats. The elder George Washington Barnes owned and operated the Fishing Shores at Carpenter's Point, having moved from Havre de Grace, Maryland, in about 1854. Carpenter's Point was historically known for its exceptional ducking shores. On January 8, 1824, William White Ramsay offered the Carpenter's Point Fishery for sale in the National Gazette Literary Register: "The waters washing those shores



abound with fish and wild fowl. A person of ordinary skill could easily make the interest of the money that will be taken for them, by sale of Canvas Backs alone, without exercising the virtue of self-denial, as there are no better shooting grounds at the head of the Bay, than around those shores."

Scott Jackson married his first wife, Eva Cooper on June 16, 1886. Eva Cooper was born on August 20, 1863, the great-granddaughter of John Cooper, who built ships at Seneca Point during Charlestown's Colonial years. The Cooper family is one of Charlestown's oldest families, having owned a large plantation outside the town, originally acquired by the family in 1754. Together, Scott and Eva Jackson had five children: a son, John S., born in March 1889; a daughter, Mavis C., born October 10, 1891 and died

FAR RIGHT:

Single Canvasback Drake — Example of Charleston School of Painting.

RIGHT, TOP:

Scott Jackson canvasback pair, ca. 1900, with the L. Pennock brand. From the collection of Patrick Vincenti.

RIGHT, MIDDLE:

An example of a Canvasback Drake, high head style, by Scott Jackson. From the Author's collection.

RIGHT, BOTTOM:

An example of a Canvasback Hen, high head style, by Scott Jackson. From the Author's collection.



March 20, 1893; a son, James R., born on October 25, 1892 and died March 18, 1894; a son, Nelson S., born March 1894; and a daughter Susan E., born August 1896. Eva Jackson died on November 20, 1900, and is buried along with her two little children at the Methodist Church in Charlestown.

Scott Jackson was a skilled carpenter. In 1901, he built a large home on the corner of Bladen and Frederick Streets. As can be seen from the photograph of his home, Mr. Jackson was a man of some prosperity. A true craftsman, Mr. Jackson "displayed his artist's eye in the details of the house as shown in the interior door surrounds, which have five strings of delicate reeding in their centers. The reeding is echoed throughout the house on every possible flat surface: in the center of the panels on all the doors; in the mantels that once framed heating stoves; in the banister; in the solid panel that covers the step ends of the stair; and in the window frames. All wood trim in the house was executed in chestnut, a further refinement.2"

The Jackson house is located at 704 Bladen Street. Will Heverin lived across the street from Mr. Jackson, and, according to Evans McKinney, the two often discussed (or argued) on the appearance of a decoy. Interestingly, John B. Graham and Wally Algard also lived very near the corner of Bladen and Frederick Street. In fact, the Algard Hotel was located directly across Bladen Street from Mr. Heverin's home, and directly behind it was the home of John B. Graham, and across the street was Mr. Graham's undertaker's business, and decoy workshop.

On April 7, 1915, Scott Jackson married Emily Elizabeth Barnes (November 5, 1871-March 30, 1943). Ms. Barnes was the younger sister of Wash Barnes. They had no children. According to J. Cranford Henry, the grandson of Perry K. Barnes, Mr. Jackson, like the Barnes brothers, was a commercial fisherman and an avid hunter. He was also a professional guide. His clients were wealthy sports from Baltimore and Philadelphia, including Charlie Bayles and Morris Clothier. Mr. Clothier was one of the founders of the clothing chain of Strawbridge-Clothier. They often gunned with the Barnes brothers out of the old decoy house, located at the Charlestown waterfront, where the Perry K. Barnes ice house is still located.



This photograph, taken in 1925 at the Carpenter's Point Farm, pictures (left – right) Charlie Bayles; Morris Clothier; Robert Lee Barnes; Harry R. Barnes; and Scott Jackson. Messrs Bayles and Clothier were "sports" from Philadelphia, for whom Mr. Jackson guided. Mr. Clothier was one of the founders of the Strawbridge & Clothier Department Store.



Pictured here at Wild Duck Cove in about 1948 is (top left-right) Lew Pennock, Doc Dougherty and Earl Groves (bottom) Merritt Pennock and Bob Swanson. Photograph courtesy of Allen W. Purner, Sr., Elkton, Maryland.

In 1920, Governor Albert C. Ritchie (1876-1936) appointed Mr. Jackson a member of the special ducking police of Cecil County. Governor Ritchie was a member of the Wellwood Club in Charlestown, and no doubt meet Scott Jackson, while gunning out of that club. The ducking police are an important aspect of the gunning history of the Susquehanna Flats. By 1860, waterfowl hunting was regulated in Maryland by statute. The enforcement of these laws was left to the local sheriff. By legislation in 1872, gunning the Flats was regulated by time periods and a hunting license was required. In a July 23, 2001 article written by Pat Melville in the Maryland State Archives' newsletter, *The Archivist's Bulldog*, it is reported that in Cecil County, Benjamin Dye was the first member of the Board of Special Police. In 1878, the Elk River was added to the special hunting provisions, and in 1880, the Maryland General Assembly gave the Governor the authority to appoint the Board of Special Police, "to consist of four men, two each from Cecil and Harford Counties, for two-year terms." Mr. Jackson was one of the last mem-

bers of the Board of Special Police, known as the special ducking police, and later abbreviated to "ducking police." In 1927, Maryland's General Assembly established the Game Warden within the Conservation Commission. Although the Governor continued to appoint members of the ducking police, they were more like modern day game wardens, charged with enforcing all conservation, game and fish laws. The law authorizing the ducking police was repealed in 1941, as were the special provisions for gunning the Flats.

In about 1928, a ten-year old Bob Gibson, who was then living with his grandfather in the V. B. Algard Hotel³, visited the Jackson House around Christmas time. He remembers the front room contained the magnificent miniature sink box rig that Mr. Jackson made to advertise his guide business. Mr. Gibson recalls that the display was quite large, and contained flying decoys hanging from the ceiling in addition to miniature gunning stools floating on the water around a miniature gunner in a single box. The miniature rig has long since been disassembled but local collections contain fine examples of this valuable part of Charlestown's decoy history.

Mr. Jackson is best-known for his Canvasback decoys, although he also made Redheads and a few Teal. His decoys are described as "racey" and have an upswept tail. The vast majority of Scott Jackson's gunning Canvasbacks are flat on the bottom and the top, although relatively flat, have a gradual slope to the upswept tail. There is no shelf under the head and the bills do not have nostrils or mandibles. One long nail fastens the head to the body with two smaller nails at the base of the neck. Like other Charlestown Canvasbacks, wing patterns are only present on the hens. His Canvasbacks include high heads, and he is known to have also made miniature Blackheads.

A few Upper Bay collections include birds branded "L PENNOCK." Mr. Pennock lived at Greenbank Farm near Charlestown from the 1920's through the 1950's and gunned at Wild Duck Cove. Mr. Pennock owned an extensive rig of Canvasback decoys, primarily made by Will Heverin and Scott Jackson. Other collections include birds from the rig of John Hanson.

Mr. Hanson was a "sport" from Philadelphia for whom Mr. Jackson guided. Many of the decoys from that Rig were made by Scott Jackson and branded "JH."

Mr. Jackson died on January 6, 1929, and is buried in the cemetery at the Methodist Church in Charlestown with his first wife and two of his children.



Scott Jackson House, Charlestown, Maryland. Photograph reproduced from page 397 *At the Head of the Bay*; published in 1996 by The Cecil Historical Trust. The house originally had a wrap around porch that was removed in about 1960.



This photograph, circa 1905, clearly shows just how close four of the Charlestown decoy carvers lived to each other. Pictured from the left is the V.B. Algard Hotel; the Graham undertaker and carpenter business. The large brick house is where Mr. Heverin lived. His decoy shed is clearly visible. The white house in the background is the home of Scott Jackson. Located just behind the Algard Hotel, but not pictured was Mr. Graham's residence.



This photograph, circa 1915, was taken at the Barnes decoy house in Charlestown. It shows unknown clients of Scott Jackson.

The author would like to thank the following persons for their assistance: Ruth Patchell, Charlestown, Maryland; J. Cranford Henry, Charlestown, Maryland; J. Edgar McMullen, Charlestown, Maryland; and Allen W. Purner, Sr., Elkton, Maryland. The author is a Cecil County historian and collector of Charlestown decoys. He has completed a book entitled, *Maryland's Charles Town, 1742 and Beyond, a Pictorial Tour of its History*, which should be in print by Spring 2005.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Wash Barnes resided at Carpenter's Point, located several miles to the south-east of Charlestown, where the North East River meets the Chesapeake Bay at the Susquehanna Flats.
- 2 At the Head of the Bay, at page 397; published by The Cecil Historical Trust, Inc., 1996.
- 3 The Valentine B. Algard Hotel was at one time known as the "Cecil Hotel" and at the turn of the Century was called the "Gibson House." Robert B. Gibson (1852-1942) operated the Blacksmith Shop in Charlestown and often gunned with Will Heverin and the Barnes brothers at Carpenter's Point. According to his grandson, Mr. Gibson made many of the early iron ballasts attached to Charlestown decoys

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by James L. Trimble

 Cedar bodied bluebill hen with top body portion made of cork, ca late 1940's. The cork added feather texture and absorbed light reflection.

Two miles due west

of the Atlantic Ocean, in southeast Sussex County, sits the small rural town of Ocean View, Delaware. Established in 1688 and incorporated in 1889, Ocean View was originally a 500-acre land tract granted by Lord Baltimore. The town's name was established, according to local legend, when a sea captain claimed he could see the Atlantic Ocean from his second-story bedroom window. Ocean View is situated on White's Creek, a shallow tributary that feeds north to Indian River and Rehoboth Bays, and connects south to the Little and Big Assowoman Bays. At the beginning of the 20th century. many of the town's citizens worked on the water, or in the newly established broiler chicken industry that began there and spread throughout the Delmarva Peninsula. Ocean View is also the birthplace of Edson Gray, Delaware's best-known and finest maker of hunting decoys.

Continued on next page

 Solid cedar flat-bottomed red-breasted merganser with pine keel and carved tail flutes, ca. 1930s

> Two piece solid cedar canvasback with small paddle tail, ca 1930's.

Balsa-bodied Canada goose with pine tail, bottom board, and keel, ca 1940s. Gray added the pine tail for additional strength. Born in 1891, Gray grew up along Cedar Neck, just outside of Ocean View, hunting the tidal bays and marshes that surrounded the area. His unusual family name was pronounced "Edison" locally, a moniker he carried for his entire life. With the outbreak of World War I, Gray, like many other men in his community, worked on the coastal tankers that ran from New York to Norfolk. Job demands were usually two weeks on and two weeks off. The two weeks on were done out of Jersey City, New Jersey, where Gray maintained housing accommodations. The two weeks off gave Gray time to return to his Ocean View community where he dabbled in the poultry industry, raising chickens and trucking them to nearby markets. In the late fall, the two weeks off afforded this avid waterfowler the opportunity to meet the migratory ducks and geese, a routine he had practiced since early child-hood.

Gray worked as a merchant mariner until 1934, at which time he returned to his Ocean View home to work full time in the broiler industry. With the need for chicken houses for this mushrooming industry, Gray saw opportunity and started building them. Gray evolved into a car-

Continued on next page

Balsa bodied black duck with pine tail and keel and elaborate feather paint. The raised tail feather carving is more a trait of Delaware River decoys.

Cork bodied pintail with ► pine tail and keel, ca 1930. Gray's early style was likely influenced by Long Island cork decoys that he hunted over during his years in New Jersey.

> Deep bodied hollow cedar ► canvasback with pine bottom board and keel, and nicely carved tail flutes, ca 1930's.

Come and Enjoy!

A special display of Gray decoys is currently featured at the **Decoy Museum** through early summer and consists of 18 decoys from the collection of Jim & Clo Trimble of Alexandria,VA.

 Solid cedar semi-round swimming canvasback hen with pine keel, early 1930s Solid cedar round-bodied bluebill with excellent bill carving, ca. 1945

Solid cedar ► flat-bottomed redhead with pine keel, ca. 1930s

Hollow cedar black duck with bottom board, pine keel, and carved tail flutes, ca 1930 penter and cabinet-maker who developed a reputation as a gifted wood worker. Gray also built small bateaus for himself and his neighbors.

Gray primarily hunted Indian River and Rehoboth Bays to the north, waters well known for attracting diving ducks. The open farm fields around Ocean View, now planted with corn for the broiler industry, prove irresistible to migrating waterfowl, especially Canada geese, who arrived in record numbers.

The late Art Patterson, an early and well known collector from Wilmington, Delaware, interviewed Gray for a short article that appeared in the June, 1972, Toller Trader magazine. Patterson wrote that most of Gray's decoy production was during the 1930's and 1940's. Patterson continues: "His finely carved heads and carefully formed bodies are examples of decoy sculpture at its best. Most of his decoys tend to be over-sized with meticulously constructed keels and weights. All of the decoys' anchor weights consist of a wire loop weighted with poured lead, concealing where the ends meet. They are specifically designed to be placed over the head for easy carrying. Edson was not known to be a prolific carver. His few available decoys are therefore eagerly sought by collectors."

Many of Gray's decoys are uniquely constructed using a variety of materials and reflecting many different styles. He was not afraid to mix materials to add strength and texture. His early cork decoys are reminiscent of those being made on Long Island, with the exception of the tail treatment. It's quite possible that Gray was influenced while living in New Jersey where he may have hunted over Long Island decoys or simply came in contact with them. Gray's cork decoys have a finely carved tail section made from pine, representing about 20% of the overall body length, for added durability. It was doweled to the cork body and pine keel. The pine keel also anchors his finely carved pine heads. His large oversized balsa ducks and geese, designed for large open bodies of water, were also made with pine heads and with pine tail section for additional strength. The cover of Henry Fleckenstein's book Decoys of the Mid-Atlantic Region, showcases an example of



A couple of silhouette geese decorate Edson Gray's garage/workshop located behind his Ocean View Home.

his balsa geese. But Gray mixed materials for texture as well. The upper layer of many of his round-bodied pine decoys is made from cork. The cork ads texture to the feather patterns, absorbing any light reflection from the paint.

Species carved are primarily diving ducks, black ducks, mergansers, and Canada geese. Some have mandible carving on the bills, but mergansers are the only species that show separation between the upper and lower bill. The tail position also varied - some slightly swept up, some slightly swept down, and others were straight back, even within the same rig. Adding to the mixed bag, some had fluted tails. Most of Gray's decoys were made of solid cedar, although a few hollow examples are known. It is Gray's black ducks and canvasbacks that are found in the widest variety of styles. They include round and flat bottom birds, some with carved raised primaries, reminiscent of Delaware River decoys. Apparently Gray's artistic talent interfered with him forming and carving the same decoy over and over again. But it was the rounded semi-butterball bluebills, with their fine mandible and bill carving to which Patterson referred when describing Gray's work as "decoy sculpture at its best"

His decoys were well painted, following basic mid-Atlantic species patterns. All of Gray's decoys have glass eyes. On his canvasback decoys, it appears that Gray used ruby-red oblong hatpins, inset long-ways, with a black dot painted for a pupil, almost giving the eyes a protruding focused look. Many decoys, except for black ducks, have an additional coat of gray paint applied to the bottom. In rough water, this would eliminate light reflection, if the stool flipped. Gray repaired and repainted his rig as needed. His bill repairs are easily recognizable as they involved a tight stepped-mortise connection.

Gray's decoy production was limited, primarily for himself and a few other Ocean View hunters. But he must have made and sold silhouette Canada geese to many neighbors, as many have turned up at local auctions in the area. Gray also hunted crows on the neighboring farmland as several of his large oversized owls, also made of mixed materials, have survived.

At the end of World War II, Gray purchased a 1/3 interest in the Calhoun Lodge located along the shorelines of Pope's Bay on Assateague Island. The other 2/3 owners were Norman Calhoun Sr. and Jr. The older Calhoun had been Gray's partner in the poultry business. Access to the Lodge was by jeep and ferryboat from west Ocean City, Maryland, located 20 miles south of Ocean View. Details of the Calhoun Lodge and its attraction to Gray and his fellow Ocean View gunners was outlined and described in the Norman Calhoun story that appeared in the Nov/Dec 94 issue of *Decoy Magazine*.

In 1950, Chuck Stein, a waterfowl hunter from Georgetown, Delaware, started to hunt the back bay waters of Cedar Neck, just to the north of Ocean View. From his blind, he looked north to the Indian River Inlet and east across the water to a thin strip of land that separated the bay from the ocean. The stake blind that Gray used was just 200 yards away from his own. Stein tells that a friendship developed over the next few years with this knowledgeable and savvy hunter. He remembers Gray's prowess with his Browning A-5 automatic. Once a flock of mallards passed overhead and three shots rang from Gray's blind; Stein watched in amazement as six ducks dropped into the water. Gray's blind was built into the shoreline so it obscured the hunter sitting in his retrieve boat.

Stein, a novice decoy carver, had access to small quantities of white cedar that he used to bring to Gray. He enjoyed talking with Gray in his shop as he repaired, refurbished and replaced decoys

> Solid cedar buffelhead, never rigged, ca 1950. This style is typical of Gray's last carvings.

in his rig. Stein still owns several of the decoys that he acquired from Gray 50 years ago.

One of the decoys acquired was a large two-foot tall horned owl that Gray used to shoot crows in the surrounding farm fields. "A man could do more shooting in one day against these unpopular predators than he might do during the entire waterfowling season" states Stein. Flocks of crows that spot their nemesis, the horned owl, in daylight hours, will attack and harass unmercifully, usually working themselves and their flock into frenzy. Stein continues, "Gray's owl added to the frenzy, as the attacking birds got snagged, caught, and tore away from small fish hooks, attached behind the horns and the back of the owl's head. A hung up crow, or a hurt crow, added to the frenzied commotion, that kept drawing more crows. Stein continues that he has no idea of the number of crows that Gray killed. However, since he purchased the owl decoy from Gray, Stein has literally killed thousands of crows, his best count being 240 in one day.

Stein also recalls "the baiting incident." One morning he was greeted by an agitated and upset Gray, who explained that on a previous day, a game warden had shown up with a scoop, retrieving a small amount of seed. Gray was arrested, charged and ultimately fined despite his claim of innocence. Milton Cooper, a local waterfowler who hunted many times with Gray as a young man, took the story one step further. He explained "the arrest took place in the early 1950's, on a February afternoon in the Little Assowoman Bay, in an area best known for black ducks and geese. The officer, from his boat, had retrieved "weed-seed". a common run-off product from the nearby farm lands." Cooper continues "Gray was so disgusted with the game warden and the eventual conviction process, he never hunted

again." Cooper concluded, "He is convinced that Gray never baited."

Sam Dyke, a decoy collector from Salisbury, Maryland, and now the curator of old decoys at the Ward Museum, visited with Gray in 1968 at the garage workshop behind his home. Several goose silhouettes were nailed to the double door entrance to the building. The inside loft was stacked high with Gray's hunting rig, a mixed bag containing many species of his well-made decoys. After discussion, Dyke scaled a ladder and looked over the rig, selecting and purchasing a few, paying \$8 to \$10 apiece, depending on species and head position. Gray told him that they were made in the mid-1930s. Over the years, others in the rig were doled out to charitable events, like Ducks Unlimited dinners, or acquired by friends. A few are signed and some are dated, though often arbitrarily. When Edson Gray died in 1982, Delaware lost its finest decoy maker. But many of his decoys remain in the homes of his Ocean View neighbors, quite possibly on fireplace mantles and in family room additions that he built while working as a carpenter. After family and friends made their selections, the remainder of his decoys sold at a local auction, bringing about \$65 a bird. That's why those southeastern Sussex County estate auctions always catch my attention. You'll never know when one of Gray's fine decoy sculptures just may show up!

JIM TRIMBLE, a regular contributing writer for Decoy Magazine and an occasional writer for the Havre de Grace Decov 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. This article was reprinted with the permission of Decoy Magazine, P.O. Box 787, Lewes, DE 19958 302-644-9001

(Submitted to The Canvasback December 27, 2004)



Sinkbox Display

Story by Margaret Jones Photo by Richard Flint

If you did not attend the Anniversary Dinner, you missed the sneak preview of the museum's newest exhibit. A beautifully carved miniature depiction of a sinkbox, complete with hunter, shot gun shells, flying canvasbacks and swimming canvasbacks by Charlie "Speed" Joiner was unveiled. "Speed" carved this incredible scene while he was recovering from an accident. Thanks to the generosity of "Speed" Joiner and Dave Walker, this long term exhibit will be on display in the second floor gallery. Dave Walker and Mr. Joiner would like to thank Ann Wagnor for her contribution to the design of the water scene and to Steve Gross for his assistance with the exhibit case.

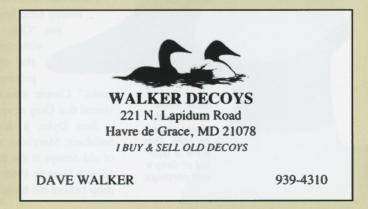


Richard Flint Appointed New Executive Director of Havre de Grace Museum

Story by John Case

The Board of Directors of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum has appointed Richard Flint as the Museum's new Executive Director. In announcing their decision after a national search, Chairman Patrick Vincenti stated that the Board was "delighted to attract a person with such creative breadth of experience as Dick Flint brings to the Decoy Museum." In accepting the position, Flint praised the Board and staff on its accomplishments during the 18 years since the museum first opened to the public noting that the Decoy Museum is one of only 17 museums in Maryland that has earned accreditation by the American Association of Museums. Flint said he accepted the appointment because "The Board has demonstrated its commitment to high professional standards and fiscal responsibility for many years and the Decoy Museum is poised for wonderful growth as an important regional educational resource and tourist attraction for Havre de Grace. I am charmed both by the city and by the Museum and look forward to working with the community."

Flint has served a variety of small and large museums during his career. He earned his M.A. degree in Museum Administration from the Cooperstown Graduate Programs, one of the first programs for museum studies established in the US. He has served as Assistant Director of the Maryland Historical Society and spent five years with the Smithsonian Institution producing a series of large-scale public programs, some attracting as many as 55,000 people daily. While curator at Baltimore's Peale Museum, he conceived and directed an exhibit on the history of museum's titled "Mermaids, Mummies, & Mastodons" that the American Association of Museums designated as this country's most outstanding history exhibit of 1991. Mr. Flint also directed planning and initial construction of the University of Maryland's new National Museum of Dentistry and was the first director of the Fire Museum of Maryland. Mr. Flint is active in a number of professional museum organizations, has served on the boards of several regional tourist associations, and is a past president of the national Circus Historical Society.





Candlelight Tour & Carver Celebration

Story by Margaret Jones

People who attended this year's Candlelight Tour and Carver Celebration were greeted by good weather. Compared to last year's rain, snow and heavy fog, the warm and pleasant day and mild evening was a welcome change. The good weather attracted many people to the town and the Museum.

Jeanne Hiss, Paul and Debbie Shertz, Marshall Purner and Barry Robinson had wonderful works on display and for sale. Visitors were able to take advantage of the holiday discounts in our gift shop as well as having the opportunity to purchase some truly unique items from the exhibitors.

The fall raffle was drawn at the close of the evening. Congratulations to this year's winners. The Green wing Teal went to Donald Preston of Glen Arm, Maryland. The Fish Carving went to Marion Wright of Aberdeen, Maryland. The Brant went to Jean Duncan of Plainwell, Michigan, and Debbie Veaux from White Marsh, Maryland, won the Great Blue Heron.

A large number of visitors were in Havre de Grace for the first time. Many stated they enjoyed their tour of the town and the museum. All along Union Avenue, luminaries were lit. The downtown district was decorated for the holidays and many houses in town were brightly lit by holiday lights. If you have never been to

Havre de Grace for the Candlelight Tour or stopped in the Museum during the Carver's Celebration, you are missing a unique experience.

The Candlelight Tour and Carver Celebration is a fun and festive event. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who made this event a pleasant and enjoyable time. Don't forget to put us on your calendar for December 2005.

RESCHEDULED

The Volunteer and Carver Appreciation reception has been rescheduled. It will take place during the Anniversary Dinner, November 5, 2005. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Margaret Jones at (410) 939-3739.

– Margaret Jones

Anniversary Dinner

Story by Margaret Jones

The 18th Annual Anniversary Dinner was held at the Bayou Restaurant. As usual the Bayou staff provided excellent food and wonderful service.

There was no "Guest Speaker" scheduled for this year's event. Instead everyone was introduced to our new Executive Director Richard Flint. Richard has a diverse museum background. The museum is proud and excited to have him with us. If you did not get a chance to meet Dick at the dinner, stop by the Museum and say hi to Dick and introduce yourself.

The number one decoy was bought by Charlie Packard. The remaining twenty-four were sold by lottery. A number of the remaining birds are on reserve at the museum for various collectors, most of which have been picked up. There are still a few decoys available. Come and purchase one of these unique cork decoys before they are all gone.

Thanks to all of the individuals who donated their time or works for the dinner, Charlie Joiner, Harry Shourds, Charlie Bryan, Capt. Bill Collins, Ron Rue, Margaret Todd, Mike Affleck, Jay Freeman Wright and Ed Watts. I would also like to thank the staff and volunteers who helped with the auctions and raffles. The Decoy Museum is always appreciative of everyone's continued

support.

The continued health and well being of the Decoy Museum is celebrated every year with excellent food, fun and friends. If you have not attended the Anniversary Dinner in the past, mark your calendar for November 5, 2005, so you can be sure not to miss the fun.



- Carver profiles
- Features on carving regions, fish decoys, sporting art
- Complete auction coverage
- Classified section for buying, selling, trading
- National calendar of all decoy shows
- Photographs of over eighty decoys, many in full color

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Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Spring Raffle 1st Prize \$500 2nd Prize \$500 3rd Prize \$300 Drawing is May 8, 2005, 3:30pm at the Havre de Grace Middle School Tickets are \$5.00 each or three for \$10.00 For tickets call the museum at

410-939-3739

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2004

JANUARY 1, 2004 - DECEMBER 31, 2004

MISSION

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

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

VISITATION	7
GENERAL VISITATION	8
Adults	6
Children 9-18	6
Children 0-18	6
Seniors	6
Members	%
Gift Shop Only	%
Group Tours	%
Other	
SPECIAL EVENTS	1
Student Art Show75	3
Decoy, Wildlife Art &5,98 Sportsman Festival	9
Sporting Clays Shoot	9
Duck Fair	
Anniversary Dinner	8
Candlelight Tour & Carvers	
MEMBERSHIP	1
Member Residence:	
Maryland	
Other Mid-Atlantic States	

VOLUNTEERS

5,042 hours of donated service 1127 Hours – Front Desk & Gift Shop 1010 Hours – Board Members 330 Hours – Volunteer carvers (weekends and school tours) 2575 Hours - Special Events Volunteers

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COLLECTIONS ACQUISITIONS

- Paul Gibson Collection, 9 Decoys (Donated by Karol Lynn Hitchens)
- Two Photographs of Bob Litzenberg (Unknown donor)
- Photograph of Mike Smeyser (Unknown donor)
- Two Susquehanna Flats Carving and Arts Festival posters (Donated by Bob Bendler)
- Fred Odzark Greater Scaup hen (Donated by Karla Mattsson)
- Ruddy Duck collection
 (Donated by Allen Fair)
- Three ammunition boxes (Donated by Griff Evans)
- ► 2005 Federal Duck Stamps (Donated by A. Harry Oleynick, MD)
- Two Green Wing Teal Museum Decoy Prototypes (Donated by

 Havre de Grace Carvers, George Williams and Jeff Coats)

EXHIBITS

- ► Installed 5 additional Stained Glass Windows depicting decoys by bay carvers
- ► Canvasback Decoys of the Chesapeake Bay, from the collection of Mark Holeckeck

- ► Antique Hunting Equipment and Firearms, from the collection of Patrick Vincenti
- ► Chincoteague Decoys Revisited, on loan from the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
- New Jersey Black Duck Decoys, from the collection of Dr. Robert Mallin
- ► Harford County Student Wildlife Art Competition and Show
- Grayson Chesser 2004 Honorary Festival Chairman Exhibit
- Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest Winners Display
- ► Stansbury-Chrisfield Decoy Exhibit
- Bufflehead Exhibit
- ► Annual Junior Duck Stamp Competition Traveling Exhibit
- ► Mike Gleason 2004 Honorary Duck Fair Chairman Exhibit
- Potomac Decoy Collectors Association Exhibit

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

- ▶ Retriever and Duck Call Demonstrations
- Weekend Carving Demonstrations Year Round by Volunteer Carvers
- ► Harford County Student Art Competition in cooperation with Harford County Board of Education
- Scales and Tails Program by Maryland Department of Natural Resources

- Decoy Painting for Students by Volunteer Carver Noble Menzer
- ► Tips for Native Species Gardening by the Harford County Master Gardens
- Maryland Wildlife Rescue and Rehab Presentation
- ► Girl Scout Badge programs
- ► Cub Scout Whittlin' Chips Program

CARVING CLASSES

An average of 8 individuals participated in weekly adult carving classes that provided an opportunity for carvers to hone their skills under the guidance of award-winning carver Jeff Moore

DOCENT-LED PROGRAMS

- 824 adults and seniors participated in group tours
- ► 534 school children participated freeof-charge in programs consisting of group tours, carving demonstrations, craft projects, and video presentations

SPECIAL EVENTS

- ► Carvers and Volunteers Appreciation Day
- 23rd Annual Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival — Honorary Chairman: Grayson Chesser

- ► 17th Annual Duck Fair Honorary Chairman: Mike Gleason
- ► Sporting Clays Classic
- ► 18th Annual Anniversary Dinner
- Candlelight Tour, Sale & Carver Celebration

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

TOTAL ASSETS\$1,215,042.76 Includes cash, investments, inventory, land and leasehold improvements, furniture and equipment, accumulated depreciation, and the value of the museum collection.

TOTAL LIABILITIES\$1,215,042.76 AND CAPITAL

sales tax payable.

TOTAL CAPITAL\$1,188,461.27 Includes unrestricted net assets, restricted net assets, and net income.

2004 REVENUES\$2	80,416.85
General Admissions	\$22,719.37
Memberships	\$15,980.00

Educational Programs	\$ 6,972.00
The Canvasback	\$ 4,819.30
Grants	\$41,000.00
Private Donations	\$21,835.62
Corporate Sponsors	\$10,072.00
Decoy Festival	61,969.43
Other Events	\$34,049.26
Raffles	\$ 7,910.00
Gift Shop Sales	32,826.63
Capital Donations	\$16,600.00
Other Income	\$3,663.24

2004 EXPENSES	\$216,836.76
Administration	\$88,216.36
Gift Shop	\$24,932.99
Maintenance	\$37,221.04
Decoy Festival	\$23,594.95
The Canvasback	\$13,118.86
Collections	\$ 2,194.95
Other Events	\$16,277.16
Educational Programming	\$ 5,616.63
Exhibits	\$ 1,426.78
Building Repairs	\$ 4,237.04
This statement is not audited.	

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Caitlyn Felkoski, *Gift Shop Associate* **STARTING 10/11/04**

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Havre de Grace Decoy Museum **Membership Information**

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

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□ I would like information on volunteer opportunities.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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popular area of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is our gift shop. Many casual visitors are apt to acquire their first decoy in our museum store while the experienced collector sometimes purchases the latest book about decoys during a Museum visit. In addition, a wide number of waterfowl-related decorative and craft items are available. During the month of December many local residents made special trips to purchase for their out-of-town friends gifts that represent Havre de Grace because of its fame as the "Decoy Capital of the World."

Just how good is our smorgasbord of more than 300 items that are available in our gift shop? The average visitor to the Decoy Museum spends more money in our gift shop than the national average when compared to data for 2004 gathered by the Museum Store Association, of which we are a member. We think museum-goers like the variety of what they see and our wide range of prices to suit every visitor. We are always seeking new specialty items and welcome your suggestions!

Many of the items on our shelves are one-of-a-kind but all relate to waterfowl or the Chesapeake Bay. We maintain an interesting selection of reasonably priced

items related to the Museum's theme including a strong selection of educational books about decoys, local Joining many of the live ducks and geese that daily congregate on the grounds surrounding the museum is this Swan by Michael Gleason that is for sale at \$52.98. In the background is the former Bayou Hotel visited by many a hunter in the 1920s.

history, and the Bay's environment. We hope these pictures of just a few attractive items will encourage members (who receive a 10% discount on most purchases) and friends to visit the gift shop.



Seen standing in front of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is this flat Blue Wing Teal stick decoy by Gregg E. Ewell. Shown here is the hand-painted drake; the hen and drake is available only as a pair for \$150.00.



The favorite of every youngster who visits our Gift Shop is this machine-washable Chesapeake Bay Retriever puppy (\$7.99) seen here as he holds up a painted basswood feather pin (\$20.00), one of many different pieces of "Wearable Art" handcrafted by Jeanne Hiss.



Enjoying the view from the newly restored promenade overlooking the Susquehanna Flats in front of the Museum is, on the right, a Bufflehead by Bill Veasey, for sale for \$55.00. On the left is the Museum's limited edition Green Wing Teal decoy by George Williams and Jeff Coates. Each year the Museum commissions a numbered production of 50 specially carved and painted decoys. Our handsome 2004 decoy is seen sitting on the left and several are still available in the Gift Shop for \$250.00.

CALENDAR

Every Monday At The Decoy 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

Festival Honorary Chairman, Jim Britton Exhibit, Main Gallery— February through May, Potomac Decoy Collectors Association Exhibit featuring Edson Gray, Main Gallery—February through May.

March 2005

Saturday 5-Sunday 6

32nd Annual Lancaster County Wood Carving & Wildlife Art Show and Competition, Millersville University Student Union Building, Millersville, Pa. The Lancaster County Woodcarvers offer hourly door prizes, competition, awards demonstrations and food. Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sunday 10am to 4pm. Admission \$4.00 donation, children under 15 free with adult.

Wednesday 9

Ellsworth B. Shank Historical Lecture at the Havre de Grace City Hall 7pm. "Minerva Dennnison Rodgers-Matriarch of Generations of Naval Officers & Influential Havre de Grace Resident" lecture sponsored by the Susquehanna Museum of Havre de Grace, free to the public. Email: susquehanna@erols.com.

Friday 11

12th Annual R Madison Mitchell Endowment Dinner to be held at The Bayou Restaurant, Havre de Grace, MD. See announcement in this issue.

Saturday 12

36th Annual Wisconsin Decoy and Sporting Collectibles Show to be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Room to room trading on Thursday and Friday. Contact: Roger Ludwig, 3972 Leonard Point Rd., Oshkosh, WI 54904, (920) 233-0349.

Friday 18 - Sunday 20

28th Annual O.D.C.C.A. Decoy Show, West Lake Holiday Inn, Westlake, OH. For more information concerning the show, contact: Richard or Carole at (440) 885-0311.

April 2005

Monday 11

Journey into Nanticoke, lecture by Virginia Busby, PhD. 7pm at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, 101 Lafayette Street, Havre de Grace, MD. In celebration of Archeology month, come and discover the fascinating history of the Naticoke Indians of the Delmarva Peninsula. Learn how archaeological research shed important light on Nanticoke life during European contact. \$\$ call (410) 939-4800 for more information.

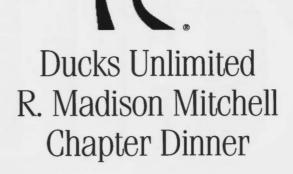
Wednesday 13

Ellsworth B. Shank Historical Lecture at the Havre de Grace City Hall, 7pm. "Havre de Grace Women of the 19th Century" lecture sponsored by Susquehanna Museum of Havre de Grace, free to the public. Email: susqmuseum@erols.com.

Saturday 23

River Sweep-Earth Day on Susquehanna River & Chesapeake Bay 9am-12pm. Annual Bi-county stewardship event for shoreline clean-up from the Conowingo Dam to Perryville and Havre de Grace. \$5 includes lunch and a t-shirt call (410) 457-2482.

Earth Day Celebration at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum. Learn about native plants, Bayscaping, ecology and the environment. 1-3pm, \$\$ email: museum@comcast.net or call (410) 939-4800.



DATE:	Saturday	April	23,	2005
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LOCATION: The Bayou Restaurant, Havre de Grace, Md

TIME: Cocktails @ 5:30 PM, Dinner @ 7:00 PM

Menu to Include:

Pit Beef, Ham, Fired Turkey, Oyster on the 1/2 shell, Steamed Shrimp & Mussels, Pasta with Marinara Sauce, Italian Sausage & Peppers, Cash Bar

Live Auction to Include:

Decoys by local carvers, outdoor art and other sporting items

Silent Auction, Raffles and Door Prizes

Limited number of tickets available.

For tickets, contact Merrill Dougherty at

1-800-439-8196 or 410-939-5022

Weekend Carving Demonstrations at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

Saturday February 19, 2005 Sunday February 20, 2005

Saturday February 26, 2005 Sunday February 27, 2005

Saturday March 5, 2005 Sunday March 6, 2005

Saturday March 12, 2005 Sunday March 13, 2005

Saturday March 19, 2005 Sunday March 20, 2005 OPEN John Ingoglia

David Walker Patrick Vincenti

Noble Mentzer OPEN

Joe Cook OPEN

Bob Hess OPEN Saturday March 26, 2005 Sunday March 27, 2005

Saturday April 2, 2005 Sunday April 3, 2005

Saturday April 9, 2005 Sunday April 10, 2005

Saturday April 16, 2005 Sunday April 17, 2005

Saturday April 23, 2005 Sunday April 24, 2005 Jeannie Hiss EASTER (museum closed)

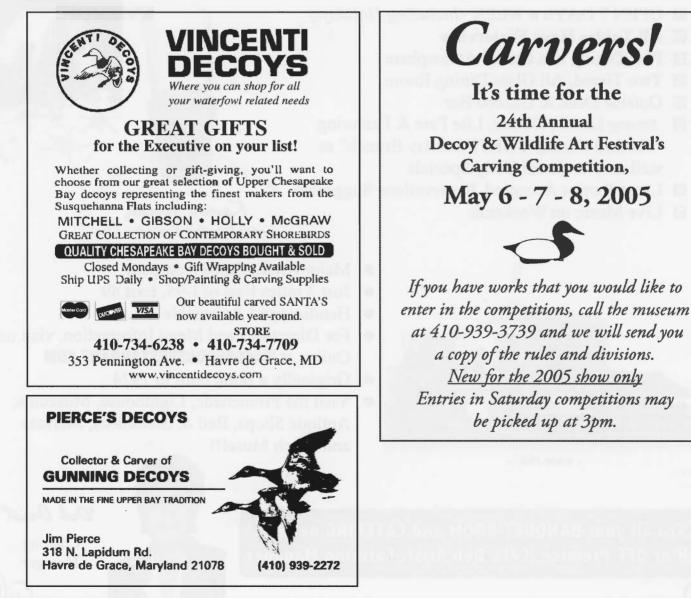
Leonard Burcham Bryon Bodt

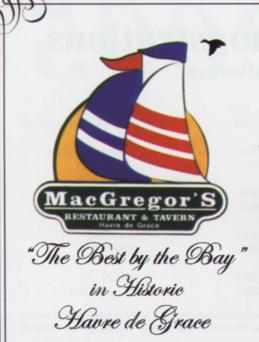
Joe Cook OPEN

Joe Cook OPEN

OPEN Frank Muller

Special Thanks is extended to Jeannie Vincenti for her work on scheduling the 2004 Weekend Carver Demonstrations. If you are interested in becoming a weekend carver or can carve on any of the "OPEN" weekends please contact the Museum at 410-939-3739 or Patrick Vincenti at 410-734-6238. Thanks!





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