

Havre de Grace

Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

Spring 2005
Vol. 14 No. 2

The Canvasback

\$4.00



Pintail
by Jim Hutton

For each Festival, the Decoy Art Competition is held to present to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum an outstanding collection of decoys. Each year the Festival Committee selects the best decoy on the exhibit based on the quality of the work.

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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

Jim Britton's Virginia home and shop overlooks a haven for wildlife native to the Bay area.



FROM THE DIRECTOR



As the still-new director, I look forward to my first Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival. This important fund-raising event for the Decoy Museum is a great community activity as well as a premier national event. Our exhibitors literally come from coast-to-coast and border-to-border and visitors will nearly double the city's population. My appreciation goes to all who work so hard to make the Festival a great annual event!

The Festival is also indicative of the role that the Decoy Museum offers for the further development of heritage tourism in this region. Two-thirds of our annual visitation comes from out-of-state. For many of them, their primary reason for coming to Harford County is to visit the unique Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Our importance is recognized in the just completed edition of the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Havre de Grace. Noting our "setting that is incomparable," the report goes on to emphasize the "rich cultural and recreational base" that exists for our area and that "continued support to the museums for their projects is paramount to the cumulative success of the cultural area..."

In a recent address to the Havre de Grace Chamber of Commerce, State Comptroller and former Governor William Donald Schaeffer began by reminiscing about his friendship with decoy carver R. Madison Mitchell. He went on to compliment the City on its immense waterfront charm and great historic roots and then eloquently spoke of the need to preserve and enhance what remains of why so many love so much about this town. Museums, like the Decoy Museum, add immeasurably to the quality of life and to the sense of place for longtime local citizens and to newly arrived residents who choose to settle in this growing region deservedly known as the "Decoy Capital of the World."

Richard W. Flint
Executive Director



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2005**

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From the President



Dear Museum Member,

Once again the Decoy Festival is upon us and we are looking forward to visiting with many of our members and friends throughout the three-day event. Staff members and volunteers have been working closely with the Museum's Board members to insure that all aspects of this year's festival will be a pleasant and interesting experience for all who attend.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

EDITOR

Richard W. Flint

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Margaret Jones
John T. Case

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Stockson Printing Company

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

We are pleased with Jim Britton's participation as this year's Honorary Chairman. Jim has always supported the Museum and has exhibited at our Festival since its beginning. Also, Jim has agreed to provide decoys for a permanent museum exhibit as well as carve decoys to offer at this year's Festival auction. We also want to thank Ken & Judy Margolis for their help in loaning decoys from their collection, which allowed us to show a temporary exhibit of Jim's work.

On March 11th the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust held their 12th annual banquet and one of the highlights from the evening's program was when the Trust presented the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum with this year's gift. It was a check in the amount of \$10,000 to be split equally between the Museum's collections and the new Chesapeake Gateways exhibit. When I first met Mr. Mitchell I was fascinated by his ability to carve and paint. Over the years this small-framed man became a giant in my eyes as he was able to communicate with everyone on a wide variety of subjects, especially the museum. He had the foresight to preserve the past as well as to help secure the Museum's future. The creation of the Endowment by Mr. Mitchell and its continued growth validates his vision.

On behalf of everyone at the Decoy Museum, we wish to thank all those individuals that continually support the Mitchell Endowment Trust.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Vincenti".

Patrick Vincenti

Funded in Part By:

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

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

FESTIVAL 2005 PROGRAMS

May 6-7-8, 2005

Locations

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

2003 Honorary Chairman — Jim Britton

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

Friday, May 6

6:00 – 9:00p.m. Show

Saturday, May 7

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Show

6:30 – 9:00 a.m. Exhibitor Breakfast

American Legion Post #47
501 St. John Street, Havre de Grace

10:30 a.m. Atlantic Flyway Classic Carving
Competition Judging

HS Auxiliary Gym

Decorative L/S Floating Division
Decorative L/S Non-Floating Division
Decorative Miniature Division
Whitey Frank Decorative Slick Division
Youth Gunning Division
Sponsored by Foredom Electric Co.
Cocktail Division
Shorebird Division

Carving Competitions sponsored by
Mercantile County Bank

11:00 a.m. River Gunning Division

DM Grounds

Sponsored by Mercantile County Bank

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

DM Grounds

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

HS Lobby

12:30–2:00 p.m. Honorary Chairmen
Autograph Signing

MS Lobby

1:00 p.m. Old Decoy Contest

MS Stage

1:00 p.m. Live Auction Preview

HS Auditorium

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

MS Grounds

Oakdale Retrievers with Vicky Trainor & friends

4:00 p.m. Live Auction Bidder Registration

HS Auditorium

5:30 p.m. Live Decoy Auction

HS Auditorium

Howie Travers, Auctioneer

Sponsored by Hostetter Agency, Inc.

Sunday, May 9

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Show

10:30 a.m. Carving Competition Judging

HS Auxiliary Gym

Gunning Rig Division

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

DM Grounds

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

MS Lobby

12:00 p.m. Cocktail Division

HS Auxiliary Gym

Carving Competitions sponsored by
Mercantile County Bank

12:00 & 2:00 p.m. Children's Duck Calling
Demonstrations

HS Lobby

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

HS Lobby

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

MS Grounds

Oakdale Retrievers with Vicky Trainor & friends

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

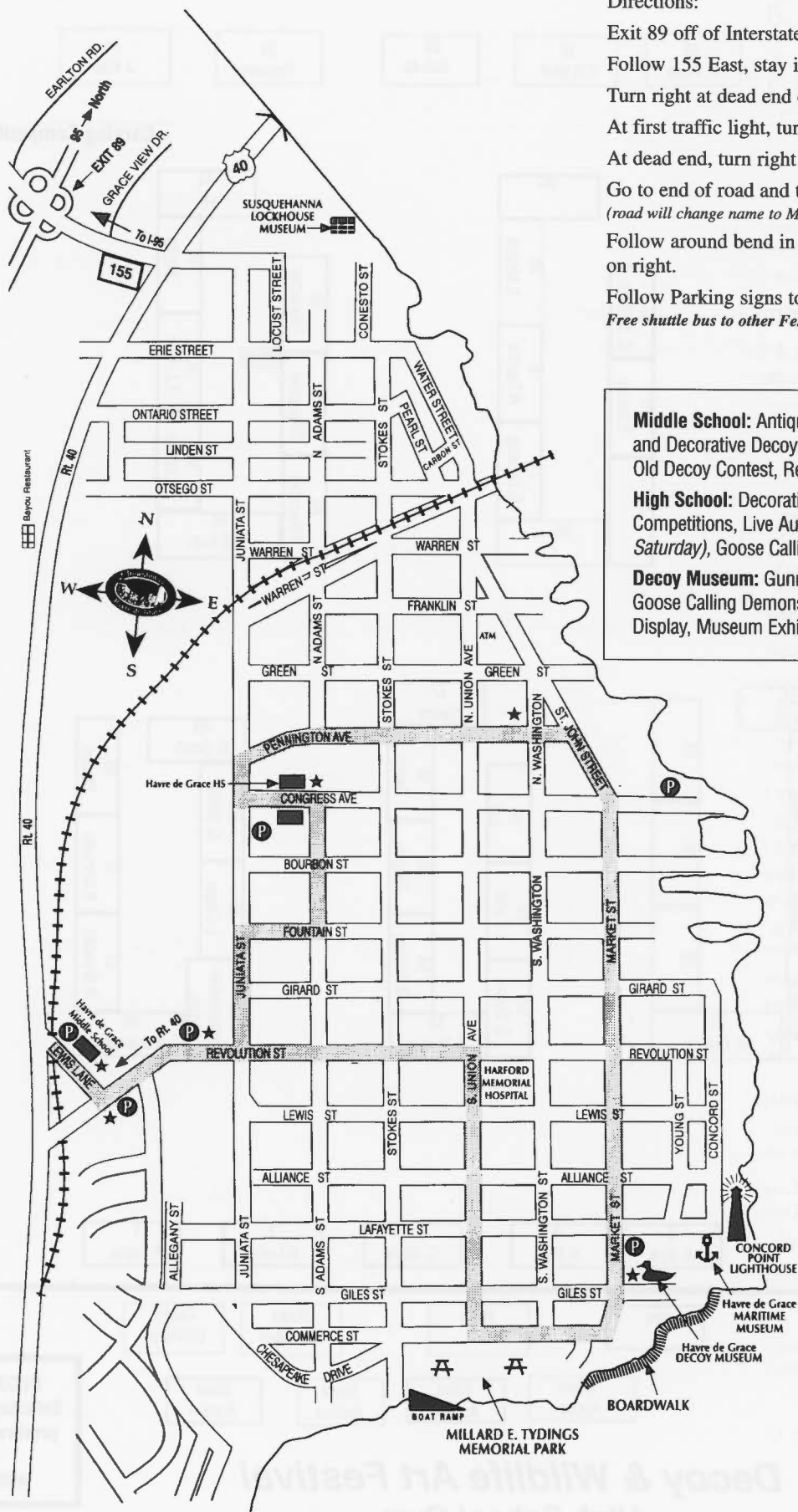
MS Lobby

3:30 p.m. Festival Raffle Drawing

MS Lobby

Door Prize Drawing

4:00 p.m. Festival Closes



Directions:

Exit 89 off of Interstate 95.

Follow 155 East, stay in left lane.

Turn right at dead end onto Juniata Street.

At first traffic light, turn left onto Ostego.

At dead end, turn right onto Union Avenue.

Go to end of road and turn left on Commerce St.
(road will change name to Market Street).

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

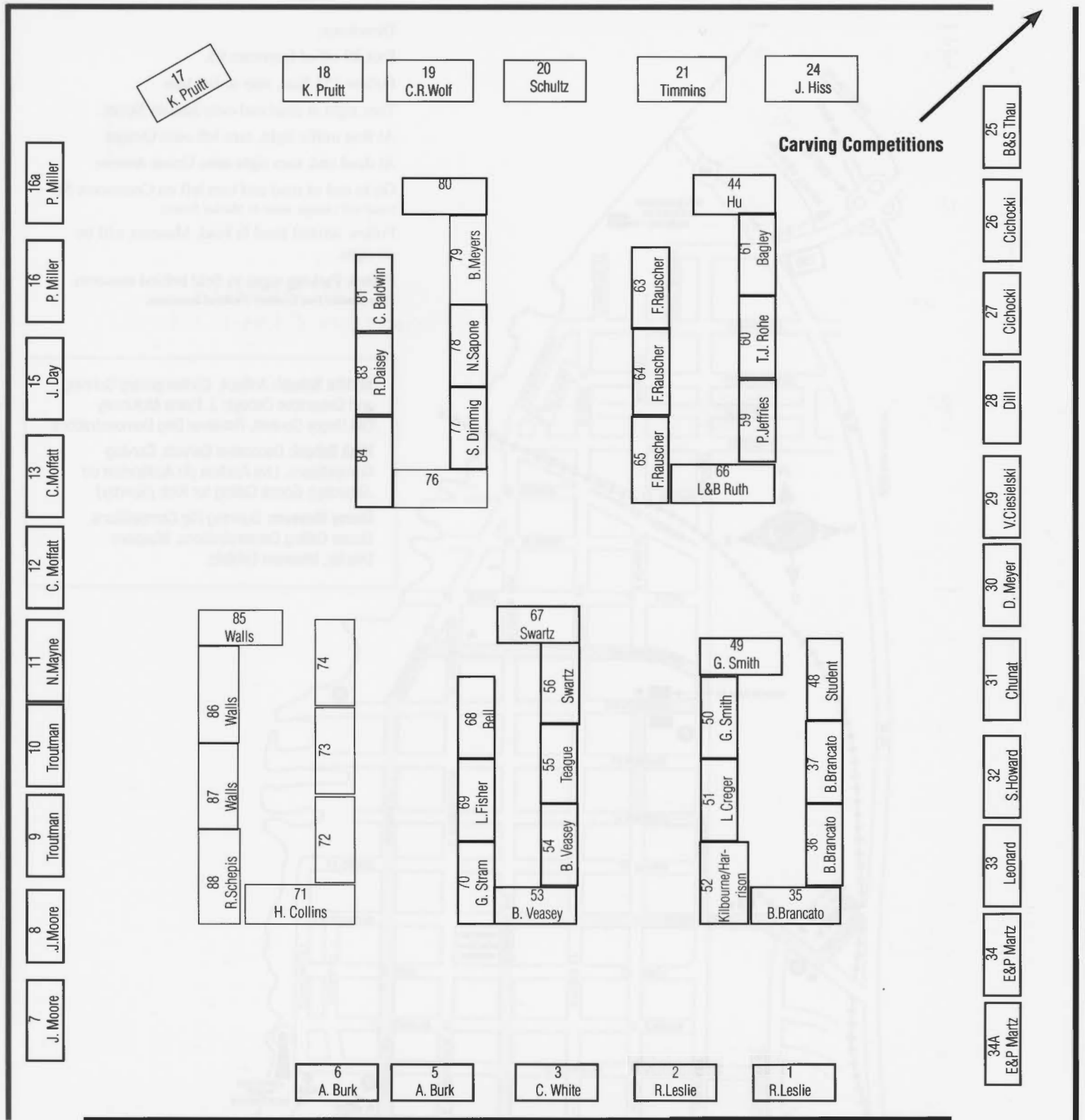
Follow Parking signs to field behind museum.

Free shuttle bus to other Festival locations.

Middle School: Antique, Contemporary Gunning, and Decorative Decoys; J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest, Retriever Dog Demonstrations

High School: Decorative Carvers, Carving Competitions, Live Auction (*in Auditorium on Saturday*), Goose Calling for Kids (*Sunday*)

Decoy Museum: Gunning Rig Competitions, Goose Calling Demonstrations, Weapons Display, Museum Exhibits.



Hospitality Room
 Admission
 ENTRANCE

Info. Raffle Ducks Unlimited Ducks Unlimited
 Silent Auction Silent Auction Silent Auction Silent Auction

DECOY AUCTION
 Saturday @ 5:30 p.m.
 preview at 1:00 p.m.
 in the AUDITORIUM

Food

Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival
 High School Gym
 2005 Exhibitor Map

FESTIVAL 2005 EXHIBITORS LIST

High School

HS 81

Charlie Baldwin
127 Congressional Drive
Stevensville, MD 21666
ceb3@verizon.net
410-643-1892

HS 35, 36, 37

Joe "Bronc" Brancato
2680 Robert Fulton Hwy. Rt. 222
Peach Bottom, PA 17563
sonnyacresranch@epix.com
717-548-4042

HS 68

Don Bell
100 Kennedy Blvd.
Elkton, MD 21921
ddb@crosslink.net
410-398-7876

HS 5, 6

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

HS 41

Paul & Deborah Butcher
10609 Bird River Road
Baltimore, MD 21220
nilloc24@netzero.net
410-335-3237

HS 31

Wayne Chonat
PO Box 327
117 E. Mowhawk Dr
Malvern, Ohio 44644
smchonat@cs.com
330-863-9244

HS 26, 27

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

HS 29

Vince Ciesielski
7705 Aynlee Way
Harrisburg, PA 17112
finefeathers@peoplepc.net
717-583-0919

HS 71

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

HS 51

Lawrence E. Creger
37316 Tide Court
Greenbackville, VA 23356
757-824-0554

HS 83

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

HS 15

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

HS 28

Mark Dill
269 Hollingsworth Manor
Elkton, MD 21921
410-398-4433

HS 77

Shannon Dimmig
34 Cherry Lane
Elkton, MD 21921
shannond@iximd.com
410-398-4157

HS 69

Lu Fisher
349 Hemsley Dr
Queenstown, MD 21658
wyework@intercom.net
410-827-7397

HS 52

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

HS 24

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

HS 32

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

HS 44

Jia Hu
Jia's Gift Hut
1533 Hilltop Rd
Downingtown, PA 19335
Wood4u@localnet.com
610-384-2745

HS 59

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

HS 33

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

HS 1, 2

Rob Leslie
1035 Hancock Drive
Turnersville, NJ 08012
skidado@aol.com
856-228-8874

HS Lobby

John Littleton
Gunpowder Chapter -Ducks
Unlimited
63 Admiral Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21222
410-288-4438

HS 56, 57

John & Veronica Malchione
110 Bancroft Rd
Kennett Square, PA 19348
jvmsport@aol.com
610-444-3509

HS 34, 34-A

Earl & Pat Martz
HCR 1 Box 99 A
Vowinkel, PA 16260
814-927-8659

HS 11

Ned Mayne
4482 Forkneck Road
Vienna, MD 21869
410-901-9930

HS 30

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

HS 79

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

HS 16, 16A

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

HS 12, 13

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

HS 7, 8

Jeff Moore
Fowl Play Studio
549 Pearl Street
Rising Sun, MD 21911
410-658-5451

HS 17, 18

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

FESTIVAL 2005 EXHIBITORS LIST

High School Continued

HS 63, 64, 65

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

HS 60

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

HS 66

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

HS 78

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

HS 88

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

HS 20, 20a

John & Amy Schulz
1025 Farmview Dr
Waterville, OH 43566
jnaschulz@msn.com
419-878-8813

HS 38, 39

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

HS 49, 50

Gary Smith
Beaver Dam Decoys
P.O. Box 35967
Canton, OH 44735
beaverdamdecoys@aol.com
800-847-4211

HS 55, 56

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

HS 25

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

HS 21

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

HS 9, 10

Mary Lou Troutman
Cozy Cupboard
PO Box 230
49510 Lois Lane
Dameron, MD 20628
marytroutman@hotmail.com
301-872-5807

HS 53, 54

Bill Veasey
16 Gill Drive
Newark, DE 19713
302-738-5451

HS 85, 86, 87

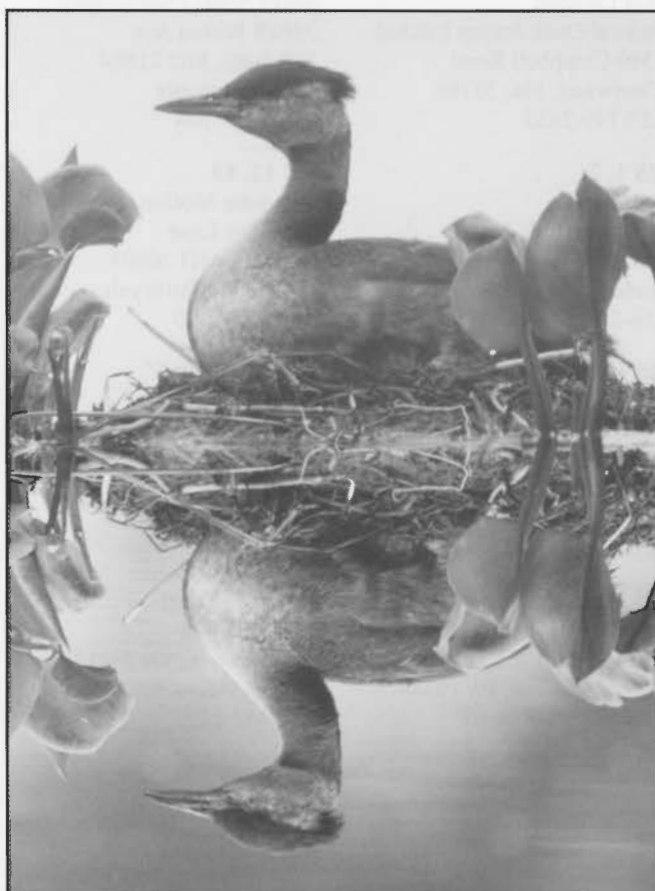
Cinda Walls
Knotts Knives
5549 Spinnaker Dr
Salisbury, MD 21801
knottskn@verizon.net
410-546-1635

HS 3

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

HS 19

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



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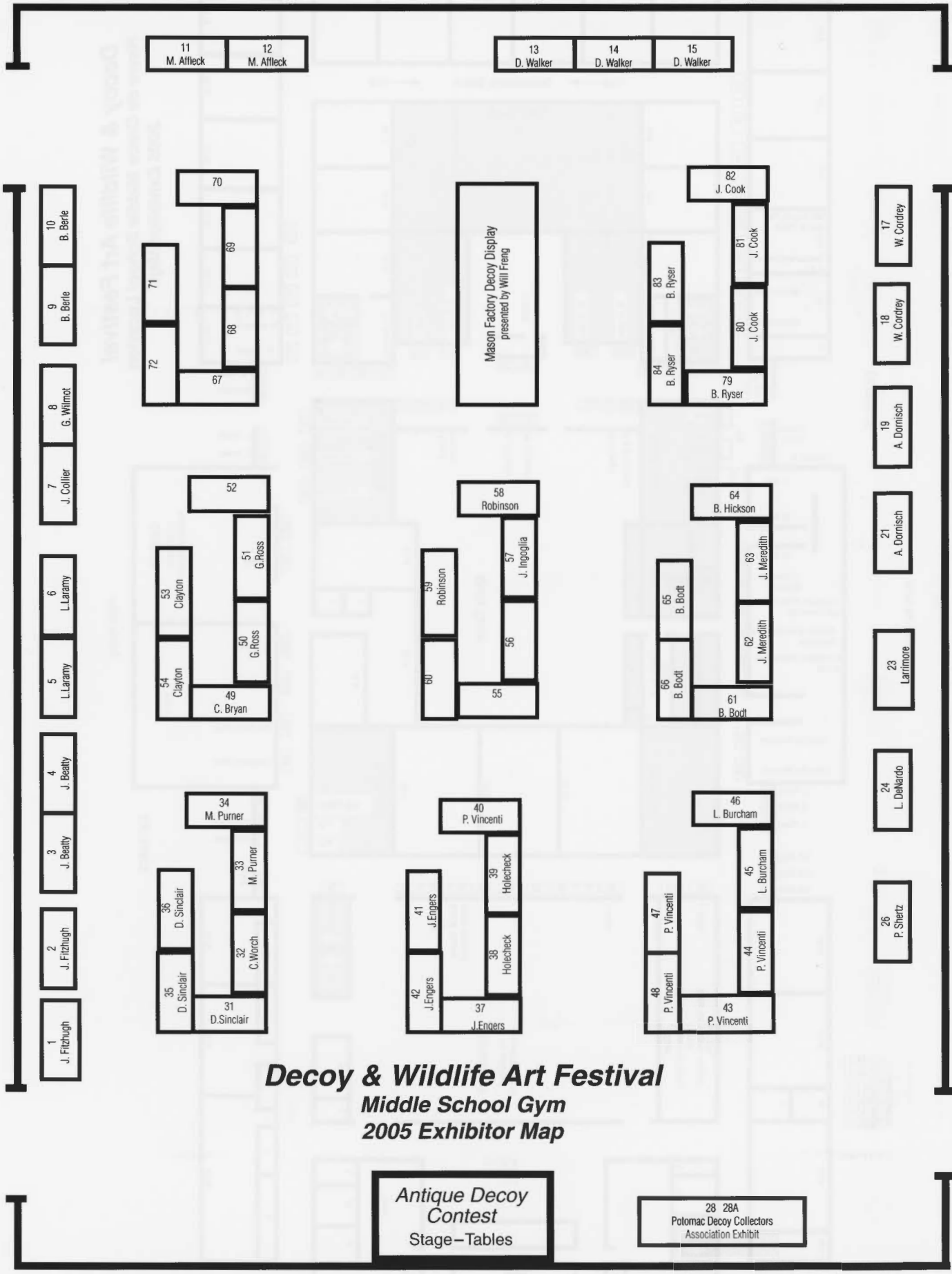
ENTRANCE

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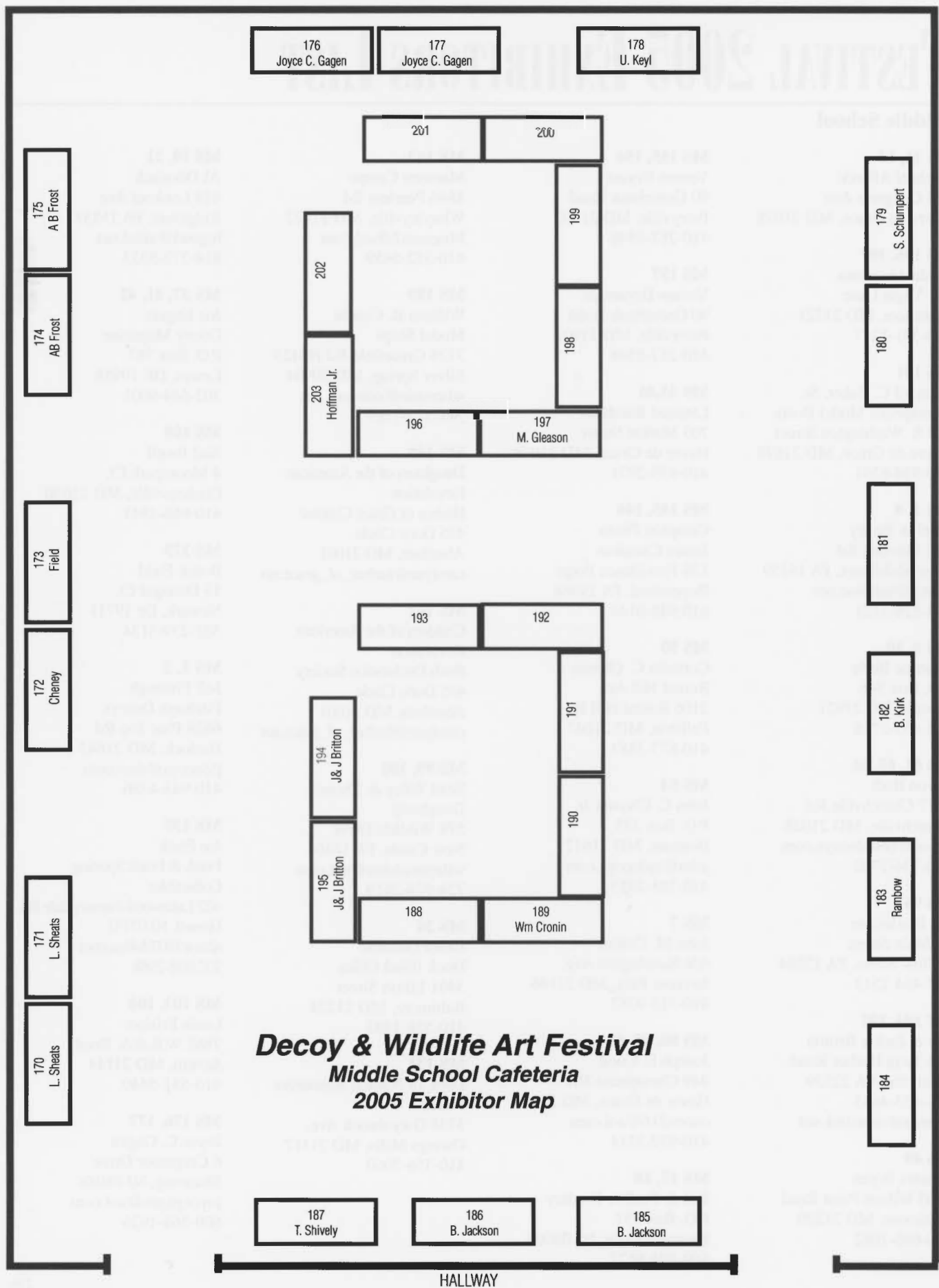
Shuttle Bus Transportation

Public Parking

ENTRANCE



Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival
Middle School Gym
2005 Exhibitor Map



FESTIVAL 2005 EXHIBITORS LIST

Middle School

MS 11, 12

Michael Affleck
664 Congress Ave
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

MS 106, 107

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

MS 101

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

MS 3, 4

Jocelyn Beatty
265 Mitchell Rd.
West Middlesex, PA 16159
beatty@infoonline.net
724-528-3121

MS 9, 10

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

MS 61, 65, 66

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

MS 96

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

MS 194, 195

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

MS 49

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

MS 155, 156

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

MS 157

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

MS 45, 46

Leonard Burcham
703 Market Street
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
410-939-2971

MS 145, 146

Campion Photo
James Campion
136 Providence Forge
Royersford, PA 19468
610-948-0144

MS 90

Cornelia C. Cheney
Round Hill Art
2106 Round Hill Rd
Fallston, MD 21047
410-877-3881

MS 54

John C. Clayton Jr.
P.O. Box 275
Bozman, MD 21612
john@njdecoys.com
410-745-2955

MS 7

John M. Collier
636 Kensington Ave.
Severna Park, MD 21146
410-315-9787

MS 80, 81, 82

Joseph L. Cook
949 Chesapeake Dr.
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
cuoco216@aol.com
410-939-3714

MS 17, 18

Bill & Pauline Cordrey
P.O. Box 651
Barnegat Light, NJ 08006
609-494-8677

MS 163

Maureen Crespo
8846 Peerless Rd
Whayleyville, MD 21872
Mugsnus2@aol.com
410-352-5459

MS 189

William B. Cronin
Model Ships
3128 Gracefield Rd H5423
Silver Spring, MD 20904
wbcronin@comcast.net
301-572-7707

MS 160

Daughters of the American
Revolution
Harbor of Grace Chapter
445 Doris Circle
Aberdeen, MD 21001
carolyne@harbor_of_grace.net

MS 161

Children of the American
Revolution
Bush Declaration Society
445 Doris Circle
Aberdeen, MD 21001
carolyne@harbor_of_grace.net

MS 99, 100

Brad Wiley & Sheree
Daugherty
578 Wildlife Drive
New Castle, PA 16101
wileybradsher@aol.com
724-924-2619

MS 24

Laura Denardo
Duck Blind China
3401 Elliott Street
Baltimore, MD 21224
410-558-1493

MS 131

Dept. of Natural Resources
Police
3738 Gwynbrook Ave.
Owings Mills, MD 21117
410-356-7060

MS 19, 21

Al Dornisch
428 Lookout Ave
Ridgeway, PA 15853
bigowl@alltel.net
814-772-5333

MS 37, 41, 42

Joe Engers
Decoy Magazine
P.O. Box 787
Lewes, DE 19958
302-644-9001

MS 109

Ned Ewell
4 Moorepark Ct.
Cockeysville, MD 21030
410-666-1841

MS 173

Bonni Field
13 Donegal Ct.
Newark, De 19711
302-239-3134

MS 1, 2

Jeff Fitzhugh
Fitzhugh Decoys
6624 Pine Top Rd
Hurlock, MD 21643
jfdcoys@dmv.com
410-943-4386

MS 138

Jon Frank
Frank & Frank Sporting
Collectibles
422 Lakewood-Farmingdale Rd.
Howell, NJ 07731
afrank1807rh@cs.com
732-938-2988

MS 103, 104

Louis Frisino
7862 W.B.&A. Road
Severn, MD 21144
410-551-5440

MS 176, 177

Joyce C. Gagen
6 Cragmoor Drive
Shamong, NJ 08088
joycegagen@aol.com
609-268-1926

FESTIVAL 2005 EXHIBITORS LIST

Middle School Continued

MS 197

Michael Gleason
Decorating Quacks
4 Slavin Court
Baltimore, MD 21236
ptailruddy@aol.com
410-661-4340

MS 181

Leo Heppner
Capitol Arts Network
633 Chapel Terrace
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
www.capitolartsnetwork.com
410-939-6247

MS 64

Bill Hickson
11718 Three Bridge Branch Rd.
Cordova, MD 21625

MS 203

Ray Hoffman, Jr.
159 State Street
Penns Grove, NJ 08069
hoffman@dandy.net
856-299-2938

MS 38, 39

Mark Holecheck
1122 Ridge Rd
Pylesville, MD 21132

MS 105

Ann Holloway
Ann's Hand Painted Items
1302 Robin Ave.
Salisbury, MD 21804
anzart@verizon.net
410-742-9396

MS 57

John Ingoglia
220 Alliance street
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
410-939-6248

MS 158

Edward Itter
8098 Ventnor Road
Pasadena, MD 21122
410-255-7226

MS 185, 186

Bradley Jackson
Bradley Jackson Studio
2195 Reservoir Rd.
Weathersfield, VT 05151
brad@bradleyjackson.com
802-263-5240

MS 85, 85A, 86

Bob Jobes
Cap't. Bob's Decoys
721 Otsego Street
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
410-939-1843

MS 100A, 100B

Charles Jobes
Charles Jobes Decoys
855 Otsego Street
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
410-939-3005

MS 95

Cap't. Harry Jobes
77 Baker Street
Aberdeen, MD 21001
410-272-2055

MS 92, 93

Joseph A. Jobes
619 Bourbon Street
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
410-939-1807

MS 178

Ursula Keyl
Emma's Art
7543 Baleen Ct
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
410-760-9241

MS 182

Bret Kirk
Kirk Wildlife Arts
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Colora, MD 21911
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410-658-4019

MS 158A, 158B

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Prize Catch

The sight of an Eagle fishing in the wild is breathtaking indeed, especially when the contest pits the Lord of the skies with the King of the waters. Lorenzo Ghiglieri is famed the world over for his masterful representations of the American Bald Eagle, including the "Official American Bald Eagle" now a permanent part of The White House Collection. There is no question that any fisherman worth his salt would consider this beautiful Salmon a "Prize Catch".

Prize Catch

Artist: Lorenzo Ghiglieri

Limited Edition of 200

Dimensions: H: 23" x W: 12" x D: 12"

Appraised At: \$11,500



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FESTIVAL 2005 AUTOGRAPHS

Honorary Chairmen

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

FESTIVAL 2005

AUTOGRAPHS

1998 Lem and Steve Ward
 deceased

1999 Oliver Lawson

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

2001 Charles Nelson Barnard
 deceased

Charles Nelson Barnard

2002 Patrick Vincenti

2003 Ned Mayne

2004 Grayson Chesser

2005 Jim Britton



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

The Best Brand

Documented Decoys

By Chad Tragakis

Museums and decoy collectors all strive to obtain as much information as possible about their birds. Often, one of the greatest sources for this information lies in the brand (or brands) sometimes found on the underside of a decoy. Brands tell us who owned and used a particular decoy, where and how it was used, and often, exactly when it was used. They can also help in determining who made a particular decoy, and where and when it was made.

It is fortunate for the historian and collector that many decoy owners branded or otherwise marked their birds. Given the hardy nature of duck hunting and the rough conditions of decoy use, it's no wonder owners took great care in identifying the valuable and often expensive tools of their trade. This was usually accomplished by hot-branding the bottom of the decoy (usually after painting, though in some cases before) with the owner's initials. Sometimes names or initials were simply carved or scratched into the wood. Some gunning clubs and individuals were methodical about the placement of their brands, insisting on uniformity throughout a rig. Most, however, were more cavalier and to a large extent, simply let the brands fall where they may. It should be noted that some hunters and clubs branded the tops and sides of their decoys in addition to, or in lieu of the bottoms. (Often, secondary brands were applied to the tops of used decoys—especially when the brands of former owners remained on the bottom.)

Inlaid iron weights and strip-lead weights with initials cast into them were also used, and metal rig markers are known to have been hammered into the bottoms of decoys. Some makers are known to have branded and/or marked the birds they made (Elmer Crowell, John Graham, and Delbert "Cigar" Daisy, for example), some to identify their own rigs, some for marketing purposes, and others simply out of pride. Finally, some collectors stamp or brand the decoys in their collections. Today, birds such as those bearing the Mackey, McCleery or Starr "stamp of approval" are prized by collectors.

The vast majority of known brands consist of only two or three letters, representing the initials of the individual owner/user. Full last names are also common, as are first initial/full last name combinations. Aside from brands of individuals or families, as was often the case, some brands include the names of the gunning scows and boats off of which the birds were used. A bit more scarce are the names and/or initials (some quite lengthy), of long-defunct gun clubs. These often take up the entire underside of a decoy. Occasionally, symbols were used instead of initials or names.

A brand on the bottom of a decoy brings its story to life. A brand can even help turn an "unknown" bird into a priceless, documented treasure, even doubling or tripling the value of an otherwise pedestrian decoy. But most importantly, it can turn a beautiful piece of American Folk Art into a documented historical artifact, placing it in a historical context of time and place.



Hump-backed model with
"J.H. NICHOLS" brand
Standard model with
"WSO" brand
~Collection of John Pluge



Redhead Drake Decoys with Hunter
Brands ca. 1880

Stevens Decoy Factory,
Weedsport, NY

~Collection of John Pluge



Branded Canvasbacks ca. 1870
by John "Daddy" Holly (1818-
1892), Havre de Grace, MD
"GRACE" identifies a duck
from the sinkbox rig of
Grace, a gunning scow
based in Havre de Grace,
MD.

~Collection of Tom East



Branded Canvasbacks ca. 1870
by John "Daddy" Holly (1818-1892),
Havre de Grace, MD

"CARROLLS ISLAND" is for the
Carroll's Island Ducking Club.

~Collection of Tom East



Redhead Drake Decoy and
Gunning Box c. 1880
Branded "P.K. BARNES"
and "P.K.B."

Perry Kinneman Barnes oper-
ated a waterfront gunning
camp near his family's farm
and fishery on Carpenter's
Point at the mouth of



Maryland's Northeast River. This John "Daddy" Holly (1818-1892) red-
head drake, re-headed and repainted by Barnes' friend and gunning
partner, William Heverin (1863-1951), is a classic example of the stur-
dy birds that made up the Barnes rig. It is shown with Barnes' origi-
nal gunning box, which contained his shells, shot and loading tools.

~Collection of Chad Tragakis



Canvasback Drake ca. 1890 by the Jasper N. Dodge Factory, Detroit, MI
"BARRON"—Barron Gun Club (VA)
~Collection of Tom East



Canvasback Drake ca. 1915 by Taylor Boyd (1856-1944), Perryville, MD
"G.C.C."—Gunston Cove Club, Mason Neck, VA The shore blinds of the Gunston Cove Club afforded members a full view of the Mount Vernon Plantation.

~Collection of Jim Trimble



Canvasback Drake ca. 1870 by Captain Ben Dye (1827-1896), Perryville, MD "ELB" cast into iron pad weight

Edward L. Bartlett cast these unique iron weights at his own foundry in Baltimore, MD. He gunned the Susquehanna Flats and Bush River with business partner Thomas J. Hayward, who used similar weights bearing the initials "TJH."

~Collection of Jim Trimble



Curlew ca. 1885 from Wachapreague, VA (Mears Hotel rig) with Mackey stamp

Bill Mackey was a pioneer collector of wild-fowl decoys and the author of one of the earliest important books on collecting, *American Bird Decoys* (1965). Some collectors stamp or brand the decoys in their collections and today, birds such as this one bearing the Mackey "stamp of approval," are prized by collectors.

~Collection of Larry Myers



Goldeneye Drake ca. 1940 by Miles Hancock (1888-1974), Chincoteague, VA
"GRL" sand-cast into lead weight for the Green Run Lodge.

~Collection of Jim Trimble



Atlantic Brant Decoy ca. 1910 Maker Unknown, probably Long Island or North Carolina
Branded "H.F. Jones"

~Collection of Chris Nelson

Branded Decoys Roundup

Decoy Museum exhibit features decoys with historic ownership markings

On March 20, the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum opened its second exhibit in partnership with the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association (PDCA). The exhibit, featuring roughly 20 decoys and artifacts from PDCA members' collections, celebrates branded, stamped and otherwise marked decoys. It is slated to run through the end of this summer.

The brands on the decoys displayed represent individual hunters and rig owners (such as Edward L. Bartlett and Perry K. Barnes), famous area gun clubs (such as Barron and Carroll's Island), sporting yachts (such as Grace from Havre de Grace), and early and notable collectors, including Bill

Mackey and James McCleery. The decoys themselves range in date from 1860 to 1940 and include examples from the Upper Chesapeake Bay, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Michigan and North Carolina.

The PDCA was the catalyst behind a major decoy brand identification project in 1999 and the resulting publication, *Decoy Brands: An Identification Guide*. The book, one of the most ambitious efforts in recent decoy research, is available in the Decoy Museum's Gift Shop. The accompanying article by Chad Tragakis is adapted by him from his introduction to the book.

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

24th Annual Decoy Festival Auction

Saturday, May 7, 2005

Havre de Grace High School Auditorium

All proceeds from this event go to benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.

Preview begins at 1:00 PM

**Bidder Registration begins at 4:00 PM;
personal identification required.**

Auction begins at 5:30 PM.

All sales transactions will begin at close of auction.

Terms of sale: Cash, Personal Check, Visa or MasterCard.

A 10% Seller's Premium will be applied to all consigned items.

A 10% Buyer's Premium and 5% sales tax will be applied to all items purchased.

(Consignors will be charged 20% of the auctioned price for all buy backs)

LOT #	PRICE REALIZED	ITEM
1	_____	Canvasback sinkbox pair by Charles Bryan — signed & dated*
2	_____	Mallard Pair by Jim Pierce — original paint — stamped JP, signed
3	_____	Highhead Canvasback by Sam Barnes — JP carved in bottom (Joel Pussey) Circa 1950
4	_____	Bluebill hen early RMM gunning decoy painted by Speed Joiner
5	_____	Brant by Walter Smith
6	_____	Goldeneye by Walter Smith
7	_____	Ringneck by Walter Smith
8	_____	Greater Scaup by Walter Smith
9	_____	Bluewing Teal by Walter Smith



Lot # 1



Lot # 2



Lot # 3



Lot # 4



Lot # 5



Lot # 6



Lot # 7



Lot # 8



LOT #	PRICE REALIZED	ITEM
10	_____	Semipalmated Plover by Walter Smith
11	_____	Passenger Pigeon by Jamie Reader
12	_____	Miniature Merganser Drake by Steiner Pierce
13	_____	Hooded Merganser Drake by Vernon Bryant
14	_____	Bluewing Teal Drake , Parker Holley Style
15	_____	Highhead Canvasback Drake by Parker
16	_____	Brant by Parker
17	_____	Brant by Bryan Bodt
18	_____	Brant by Harry Jobes dated 1991
19	_____	Miniature Decorative Redhead Pair by Patrick Vincenti
20	_____	Cork Bluebill hen by Mike Smyser
21	_____	Cork Goose
22	_____	Canvas Swan
23	_____	Canvasback branded by Charles "Pete" Wilbur, Island Heights NJ
24	_____	Canvasback drake by Sam Barnes (1857-1926) Havre de Grace
25	_____	Canvasback hen by Sam Barnes (1857-1926) Havre de Grace
26	_____	Virginia Barrier Island Merganser , maker unknown
27	_____	Blue Goose by Charles Bryan, signed and dated
28	_____	Black Head Drake by Capt. Jess Urie, Rock Hall, MD, possibly original paint
29	_____	Model Rail Boat with oars, stand, push pole and anchor by Howard "Ducky" Foreaker — signed and dated 1997
30	_____	Model "Sneak" Boat with 4 oars, steering oar & anchor by Howard "Ducky" Foreaker — signed and dated 1996





LOT #	PRICE REALIZED	ITEM
31	_____	Coot by Bob Litzenberg, signed & dated 1990 — original paint, Excellent condition
32	_____	Green Wing Teal by Madison Mitchell, signed & dated 1981, original paint, excellent condition
33	_____	Canvasback Drake by James Holly, 1900's old working repaint
34	_____	Canvasback Drake by Sam Barnes, 1900's worn original paint, Fair condition
35	_____	Sam Barnes Body with Rehead about 1910, repaint by the Holly Family
36	_____	Canvasback Drake by Ben Dye, circa 1890's, old working repaint, Iron Keel, Branded Grace
37	_____	Red Head Hen by Will Heverin, circa 1910, old working Charlestown paint, Good condition
38	_____	Canvasback Hen by Madison Mitchell, circa 1950's, original paint, branded, good condition
39	_____	Crow Decoys in original shipping box , Animal Trap/Victor Litiz, PA, circa 1940's
40	_____	Canvasback Hen by John Holly, old working repaint, branded, S Y TECH
41	_____	High Head Canvasback Drake by Robert McGaw, hand chopped, circa 1900, repaint by Capt. Jess Urie
42	_____	Black Duck by Dr. McGraw, Perryville, MD circa 1930's with old working repaint, Good condition
43	_____	Redhead Drake by Capt. Jess Urie, Rock Hall, MD circa 1940, original paint, excellent condition
44	_____	Black Head Drake by Capt. Jess Urie, repaint by John Glenn, circa 1930's, Good condition
45	_____	Black Head by John Glenn, circa 1930's, paint taken down to original
46	_____	Canvasback miniature , cast lead by Bob Bendler
47	_____	Numbered print of Bob Litzenberg by Hogans 1986



Lot # 46



Lot # 47



Lot # 48



Lot # 49



Lot # 50



Lot # 51



Lot # 53



Lot # 54



LOT #	PRICE REALIZED	ITEM
48	_____	Canvasback by Leonard Pryor Type 2
49	_____	Old Chesapeake Bay Canvasback, unknown
50	_____	1950's Talbot County Canvasback from Tred Avon River Rig
51	_____	Gunning Coot— Art Boxleitner Brand
52a	_____	Pintail Pair, by Jim Britton, Honorary Chair
52b	_____	Red Breasted Merganser Pair, by Jim Britton, Honorary Chair
52c	_____	Goldeneye Pair, by Jim Britton
52d	_____	Brant, by Jim Britton
52e	_____	Swan, 1/3 size by Jim Britton
53	_____	Redhead Drake, Dick & Linda Robinson 1995
54	_____	Blackduck, Bob Jobes Special Edition w/stand 1998
55	_____	Coot Miniature, Bob Jobes 1997
56	_____	Hissing Canada Goose Miniature, Bob Jobes 1993
57	_____	Mallard Drake by Jim Pierce, signed and dated 1991
58	_____	Redhead Drake by Jim Pierce, signed and dated 1991
59	_____	Bluebill Drake, R Madison Mitchell, signed and dated 1958
60	_____	Blackduck, R Madison Mitchell, signed and dated 1947
61	_____	Bluebill Drake, Bob Magaw
62	_____	Bluebill Drake, Capt Jess Urie, signed and dated 1951
63	_____	Signed Print by Tom Dunnington, Bald Eagle
64	_____	1989 D U Stamp & Print, signed by Artist



Lot # 55



Lot # 56



Lot # 57



Lot # 58



Lot # 59



Lot # 60



Lot # 61



Lot # 62

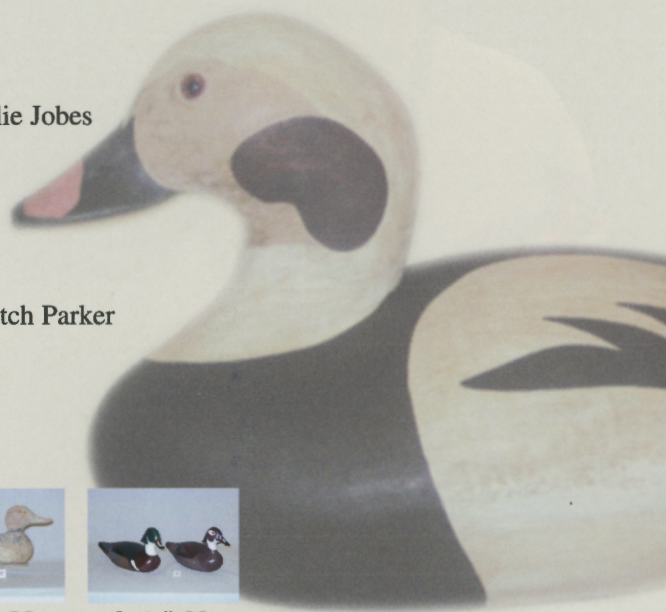


LOT #	PRICE REALIZED	ITEM
65	_____	Redhead Sleeper Drake , Evans McKinney
66	_____	1/2 Size Bluebill Pair , Howard "Ducky" Foreacre
67	_____	Canvasback Pair by Patrick Vincenti
68	_____	Thomas Point Lighthouse , Limited Edition Signed Print
69	_____	Cork Brant Pair by Rick Stephens
70	_____	Green Wing Teal Pair by Rick Stephens
71	_____	Mourning Dove by Rick Stephens
72	_____	Canvasback Pair by Reneson
73	_____	Bufflehead Pair by Roe Terry dated 1991
74	_____	Bronze Eagle Statue (<i>see page 17</i>)
75	_____	Oversize hollow-body Canvasback Drake by Rineer
76	_____	Old Squaw Drake by Rineer
77	_____	Old Squaw Hen by Rineer
78	_____	Canvasback Drake , Leonard Pryor head with Holly body, Old working repaint
79	_____	Canvasback Drake , unknown maker, possibly Holly Body and paint from the rig of John Smith Michael
80	_____	New Jersey Black Duck , original paint, excellent condition
81	_____	Goose Decoy from the Losby Rig , Gibson Island circa 1950's, Hand chopped
82	_____	Canvasback Hen by Paul Gibson, circa 1950's, original paint, Good condition
83	_____	Canvasback Drake , circa 1920's, possibly an ice decoy, maker unknown, with old working repaint
84	_____	Green Wing Teal Pair by J Milton Watson, original paint, good condition, signed by Mr. Watson





LOT #	PRICE REALIZED	ITEM
85	_____	Lamp with Mallard Miniature Pair by Bobby Jobes
86	_____	Mallard Drake , maker unknown
87	_____	Black Duck Drake by Madison Mitchell circa 1940's
88	_____	Black Duck Drake by Madison Mitchell circa 1940's
89	_____	Canvasback Pair painted by Clarence Baurer, bottoms flattened
90	_____	Half Size Mallard Drake by Howard O'Neill Signed/dated 1983
91	_____	Full size Coot by Madison Mitchell
92	_____	Factory Decoy , shot holes maker unknown
93	_____	Woodduck pair by Madison Mitchell, signed/dated 1982, Excellent condition
94	_____	Mallard Pair by Joe Cook (hen reaching)
95	_____	Loon , Georgian Bay by Rod Paddison
96	_____	Mallard Hen by Joey Jobes
97	_____	Redhead by Bobby & Charlie Jobes
98	_____	Canvasback Drake by Bobby & Charlie Jobes
99	_____	Loon Fish Decoy , branded DFD
100	_____	Charles T. Wilson Reproduction
101	_____	Severn Hall Coot Reproduction by Butch Parker



A Contemporary, Traditional Carver

Jim Britton

**2005 Havre de Grace
Decoy Festival
Honorary Chairman**

By Danny L. Imwold

Just south of Smith Point below the Potomac River is a tidal pond that opens to the Chesapeake Bay. Owens Pond is a haven for ducks, geese, herons and many other forms of wildlife native to the bay and its tributaries. For an avid carver like Jim Britton, this seemed the ideal place to build a home.

(Continues on next page ►)

In 2001, Jim and his wife Jackie built the house on Owen's Pond, just outside of Reedville, Virginia. During construction neighbors would walk through the house trying to identify rooms and became befuddled by the plumbing in what they assumed was to be a first floor bedroom. "Why is there a sink in the bedroom?"

was a common question. The room, with expansive views of the pond and the Chesapeake Bay, was actually to become Jim's art room, hence the need for a sink. To Jim, the views from the art room are both an asset and a distraction. Brush strokes are sometimes delayed to take in the wonder of a flock of geese pitching in, an eagle soaring by, or blue herons vying for delicacies from the shoreline.

Since his early experiences hunting in the Virginia marshes and around his parent's home at Ragged Point on the Potomac River, Jim has always appreciated the beauty of Chesapeake waterfowl. There at Ragged point, Jim remembers the daily spectacle of canvasbacks, redheads, bluebills, and other divers in numbers not seen today.

As this years Honorary Chairman for the Havre De Grace Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival, Jim Britton exemplifies the modern tradition of decoy and bird carving. Although born in Richmond, VA, as he puts it, "a long time ago," Jim's carving technique is unlike that of old-time carvers like Cigar Daisy and Umbrella Watson. Instead of carving for the hunt, Jim's birds are shaped and painted primarily for display. Although designed to look like working decoys, Jim's birds, with some exceptions, are created to perch on the mantle piece or bookshelf.

Why this contemporary style? Duck hunting, though not as productive as days gone by, still requires traipsing through mud and marsh to a cold duck blind where one may sit for hours waiting for the hunt. Carrying a rig of wooden decoys is much too cumbersome for most hunters when the lighter, plastic decoys made today work just as well. So, for all practical purposes, carved birds and decoys are not routinely going to be found floating in a pond or inlet trying to attract fly-by's.

Without the concern for how the decoy will set in the water, there is no concern for weights or keels, and the carver can provide more detail to the visible parts of the duck.

While on the contemporary side, Jim's interest is heavily influenced by working decoys of the Mid-Atlantic region. He combines the simplicity of the hunting decoy with more contemporary carving and painting techniques. Jim cites the carvings of Lou Reineri, another carver, as an influence early on. Though now in his 80's and living "somewhere in Kansas," Lou's style brings out the hunting bird on display. Bill Taylor, one of Jim's "huntin' buddies" and an artist, has also had an influence on Jim's work. But mostly, Jim attributes his art to the birds themselves. "I'm just in love with the birds," he'll tell you.

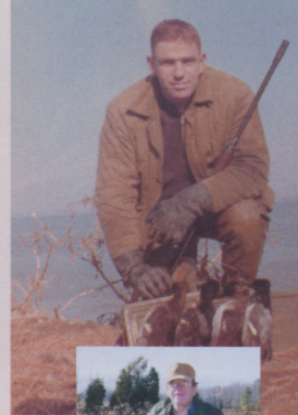
Jim's decoys begin life in a 12 X 16 foot workshop separated from the house, and are usually carved from Tupelo wood, though he sometimes carves from juniper, pine, or basswood. Unlike full-time decoy carvers who use a lathe to mass produce the bodies, Jim's workshop is a simple building and can get cold in the winter. It is home to two band saws, including a Craftsman that he's "had forever", a drill press, a drum sander and various hand tools. Though he prefers the wood of the Tupelo tree, which grows in the swamps of the Southeastern United States and can reach heights of 115 feet, Jim's interest is in the soft, swollen wood at its base. He purchases irregular blocks and cuts them down to begin the body of the decoy.

First generating a pattern for the top and side views, he cuts the body on a band saw. The head is sketched on a piece of wood approximately two inches thick and shaped with a Fordham rotary tool. Touch-ups are performed using hand tools.



LEFT:
Coming out of the shop after a hard day.

AT RIGHT:
Jim hunting at Ragged Point, VA, 1960's



BELOW:
Jim hunting on the Rappahannock River in late 1990's

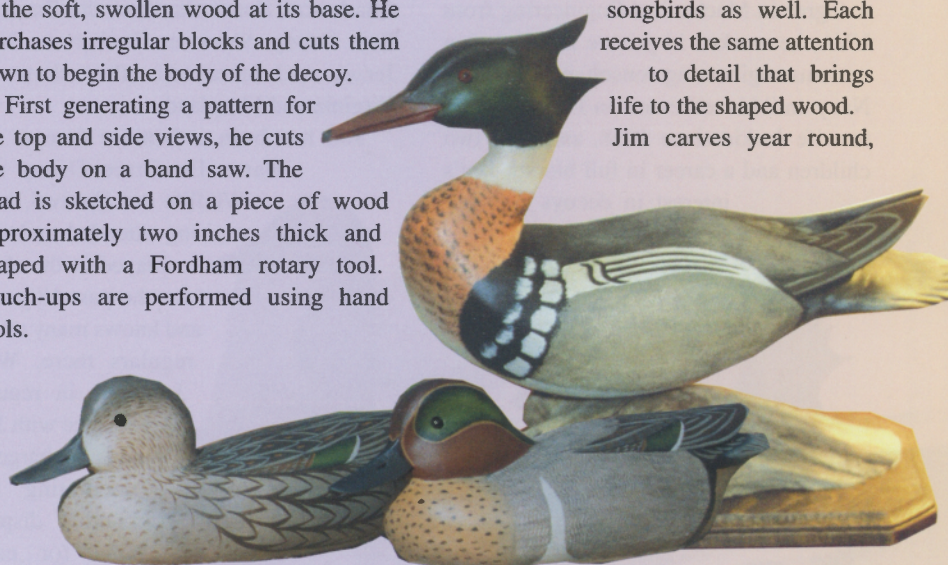


Most of Jim's birds are made from two pieces of wood for the body and head, though the rare bird may be made from a single piece. Once the body has been shaped, Jim may add a raised wing for detail, but does not use a burning tool to show feathering. "I still fashion them to look like working decoys," he said. A broad, flat bottom provides stability for the next step, painting.

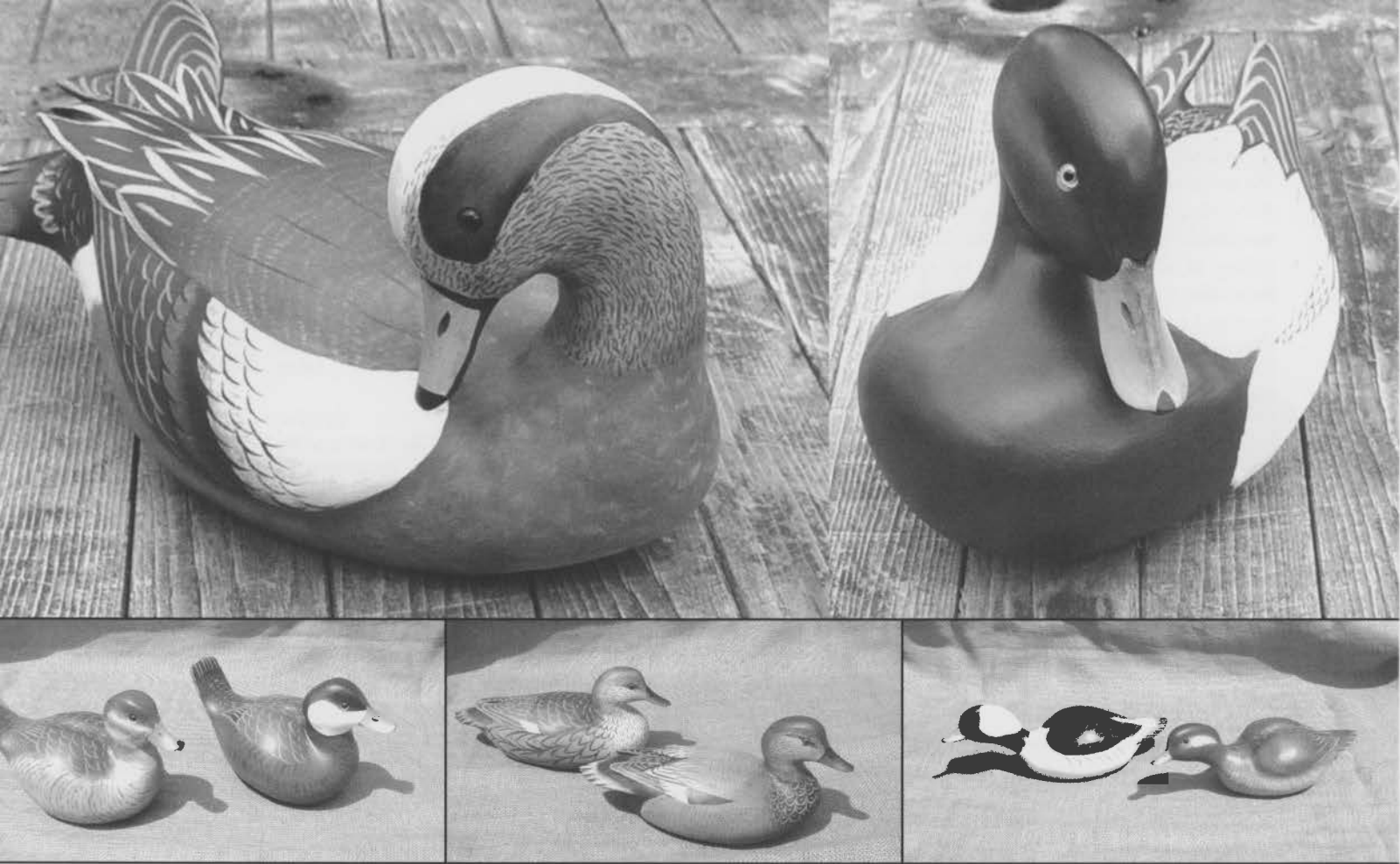
Moving into the "art room," Jim paints with acrylics, preferring them to oil based paints due to their easier application and clean-up. He is meticulous about his craft, wanting the finished product to reflect the beauty and freedom of its living counterpart.

For decoys, he prefers the diving ducks; canvasbacks, loons, redheads, cormorants and bluebills for most of his carving, although the puddle ducks, or "tip-pers" like pintails are high on his favorites list. Jim also enjoys carving other waterfowl, including herons, egrets, and pelicans, and has created some beautiful songbirds as well. Each receives the same attention to detail that brings life to the shaped wood.

Jim carves year round,



Pair of Green wing Teals and Red breasted Merganser by Jim Britton



producing “a hundred or so” birds a year, although he probably accomplishes more in the winter months for obvious reasons. During warmer days Jim says, “down here on the water you have to go fishin’ and do a little carvin’,” and so he does.

Jim is a graduate of the University of Virginia and attended the US Naval Academy until a hearing problem negated his graduation from that institution. With a degree in Mechanical Engineering from UVA, he worked in private industry as a systems engineering consultant for the US Navy until his retirement in 1990. Married to wife Jackie since 1958, and with two children and a career in full bloom, Jim’s interest in decoys was on-

hold until the 1980’s. It was then that Jackie encouraged him to renew his hobby of carving.

He began participating in wildlife art and decoy shows in the latter part of the 80’s and now regularly exhibits at the Easton, Maryland Waterfowl Festival, and the Rappahannock River Waterfowl Show at White Stone, VA. He has also exhibited at the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition at Charleston, South Carolina, the Barnegat Bay Decoy Show at Tuckerton, New Jersey and numerous other shows in Virginia and Maryland.

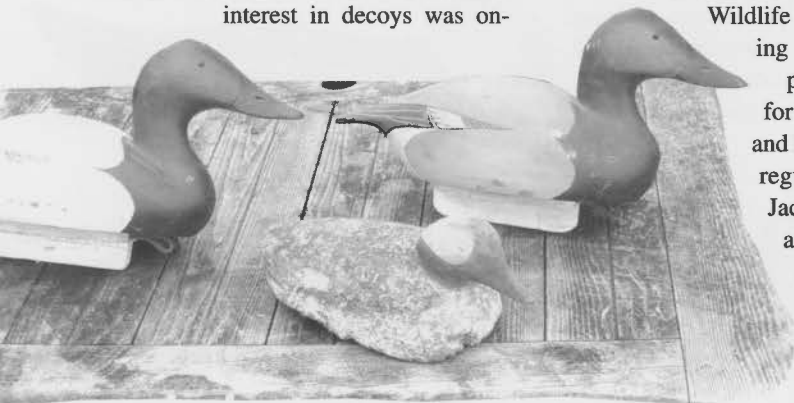
Jim has been a familiar face at the Havre De Grace Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival, having attended and displayed at the show for the past 18 years, and knows many of the regulars there. Wife Jackie is in regular attendance with Jim and is in charge of decorating the booth / display area for each

show. For her part, Jackie is an award winner as well, having won several blue ribbons for display decorations at various shows.

Although Jim carves because he loves to, many of his birds are sold as display pieces. He hopes that one day one of his masterpieces will fetch the kind of money similar to that of a bird which sold in 1986 for \$319,000 and again in 2003 for more than \$800,000, but doesn’t think he’ll be around to collect. Maybe one of his grandchildren...

Picture Jim, sitting at a work table in his art room overlooking Owen’s Pond, brush in paused hand, watching as a flock of Canadian geese lite on the smooth surface of the water, and you can imagine a man who is not just comfortable in his retirement, but happy. Like most carvers, Jim doesn’t carve for a living. He carves because he loves it. And doing what you love should make anybody happy.

Jim Britton is honored to have been chosen as this years Honorary Chairman for the Festival, and hopes that you’ll stop by to say hello during the show. ■



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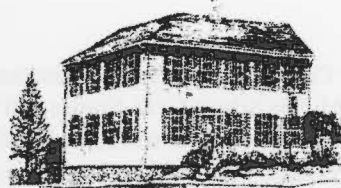
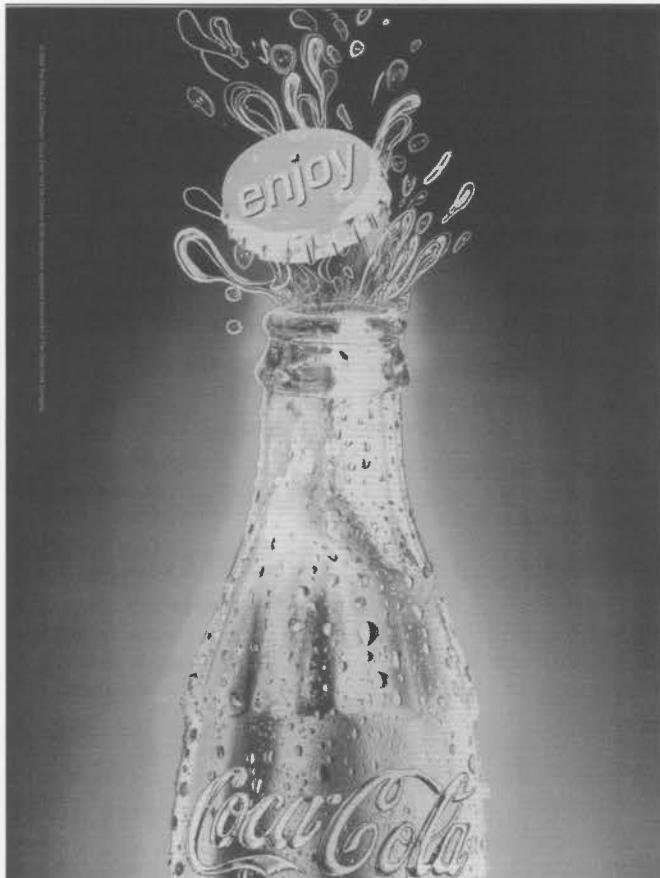
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J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest

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 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 approximately 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.



James T. Hulley —
Red Head



Best Severin Hall Paint



Ed Phillips (Canvasback Drake) —
Black Duck



Ward Brothers —
Wood Duck



Nathan Cobb—
Black Duck



Will Heverin —
Canvasback Pair



Best NJ Merganser



Long Island Mergansers



R. Madison Mitchel I—
Black Duck



Best Upper Bay Pintail

- * 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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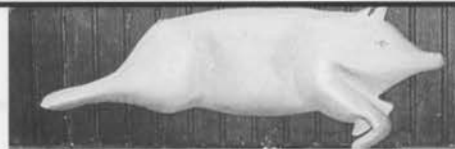
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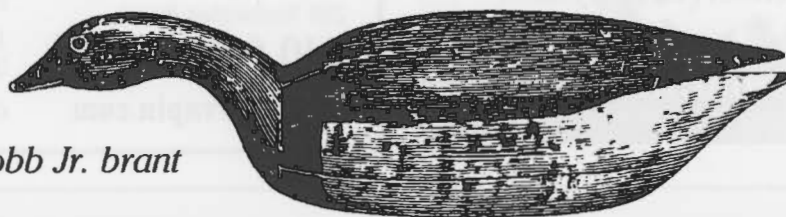
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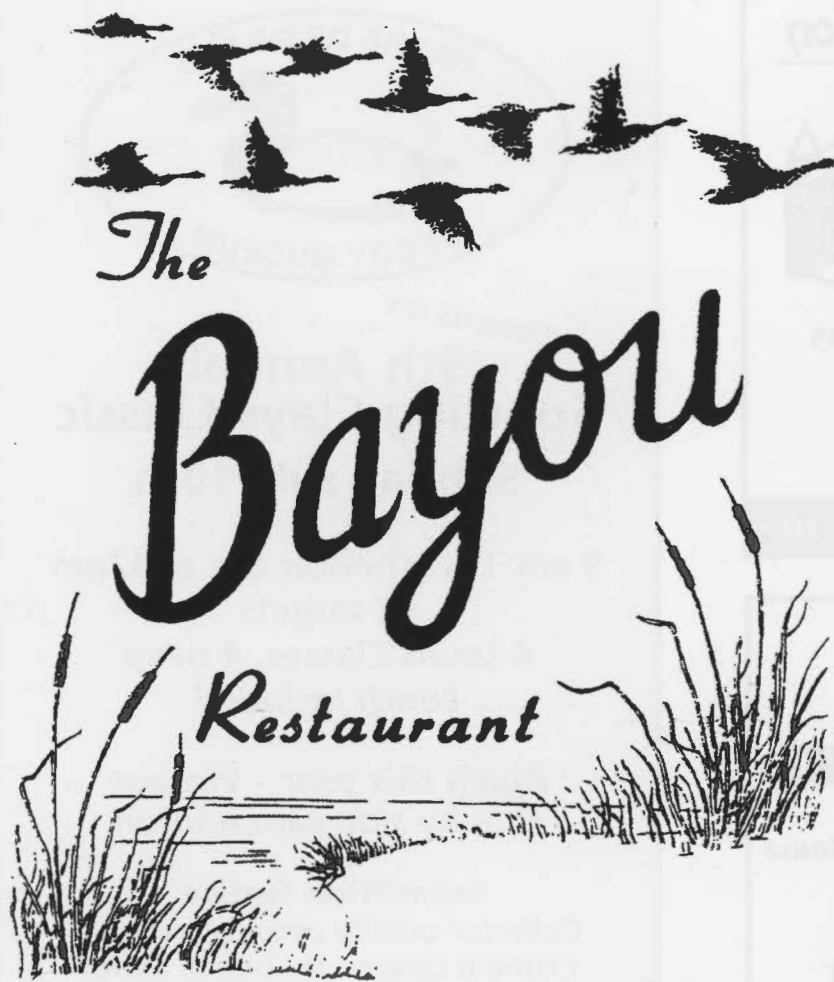
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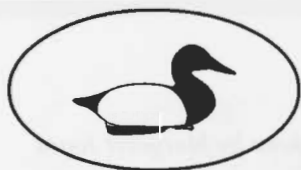
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MUSEUM NEWS

Cub Scouts Visit Museum

Story and photo by Margaret Jones

Boys from Cub Pack 238 St Ignatius Church in Hickory participated in the first "Whitlin' Chip" program offered at the museum. Boys who are Bears and WeBLoS are allowed to handle a pocketknife during scout approved events. But first, they have to earn their "Whitlin' Chip" card.

The boys learned about the proper cleaning, care and handling of their knives by demonstrating how to properly open and close them, sharpen them and passing them from one person to another. They had to identify when it is appropriate to have their pocket knife with them and explain how to keep it safe at home. Once they accomplished that, they practiced whitlin' by carving a bar of soap.



Some of the boys chose to carve a decoy head and others attempted a bear. All in all, the boys and parents had a wonderful time learning how to handle their knives and went home with a carved figure. A few of the older boys announced they wanted to carve neckerchief slides next.

Once the boys were done, they were sent on a "Duck Hunt" in the museum. They needed to identify certain decoys and their carvers. They had a good time learning the basics of carving and knife safety while earning Cub Scout achievement awards and pins.

If your Cub Pack would like to take advantage of the "Whitlin' Chip" program at the museum, give us a call to schedule a program.

A Correction from The Canvasback staff

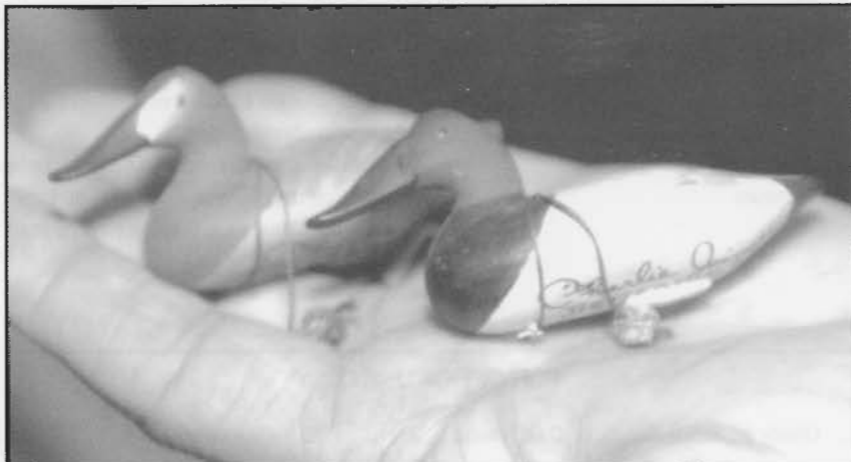
In the Annual Report printed in the last issue of The Canvasback, we mistakenly credited the decoys loaned for the recent Crisfield exhibit. Our most sincere apologies are expressed to Dr. Morton Kramer, a long-time supporter of the Museum, who was so generous in lending his decoys for the exhibit. And we are embarrassed to note that at the same time we also misspelled Crisfield!

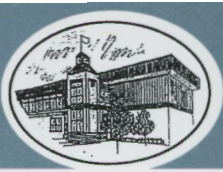
Annual Mitchell Endowment Trust Dinner

Story by Jim Trimble

The 11th annual R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust dinner held March 11th at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace attracted a sellout of 250 supporters. Guests were there to recognize and celebrate Mitchell's contributions that went way beyond his small waterfront community located at the top of the Chesapeake Bay. The trust was established to support through financial contributions the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's educational programs as well as the museum's acquisition of decoys and artifacts. The dinner fundraiser featured live and silent auctions as well as raffle opportunities. Auction and lottery items featured Mitchell decoys as well as decoys from a host of present day carvers employed or impacted by Mitchell. Charles Bryan, Charles Joiner, and Jim Pierce decoys were among those auctioned

and those same carvers were in attendance to reminisce with guests. The top-dollar auction item was a 1955 pair of Charles Joiner miniature sinkbox decoys made in 1955 submitted by Dave Walker. Lottery draw items featured a special limited-edition casting of 25 pairs of Mitchell early-pattern iron sinkbox mallards that sold to 25 names drawn at \$500 per pair. That evening, the Endowment Trust presented a \$10,000 check to the museum to be split equally between museum collection acquisitions and as matching funds for a Chesapeake Gateways funded exhibit grant. This was the most successful fundraising dinner to date with Endowment President Pat Vincenti expressing appreciation to those that donated and those that spent, as well as to the volunteers who worked so hard to make it happen.





Head Start

Story by Margaret Jones
Photos by Richard Flint

The first school tours of the year began with visits by five groups from the Head Start Programs in Havre de Grace and Elkton. Head Start is a pre-kindergarten program designed to give kids a "head start" in school. They were learning about the environment and came to learn a little about decoys and ducks.

Several carvers helped by conducting demonstrations for the groups. Each carver has a unique approach when dealing with school groups and keeping fifteen five year olds in their seats is no small task!

Noble Mentzer guided the first two groups through the museum and introduced them to decoy carving. He showed them how he would "find" his decoy in the block of wood and used his works in progress to explain how they were made.

Leonard Burcham showed the next two groups how he made his decoys and did a wonderful job of imitating duck sounds. Once the kids learned about duck sounds, we had duck races and learned why they should feed ducks corn instead of bread. They then went out on the promenade to feed the ducks.

Jeanne Hiss finished with the last group and explained how different birds acted in the wild and showed them how they use tricks to fool predators. Jeanne has a wonderful Kestrel carving that she uses to show how the feather markings on the back of the head looks like a face to scare away unwanted visitors. The group finished by taking a walk along the promenade and feeding the ducks.

I would like to thank all our carvers and volunteers who help with the school programs. School programs are available for different interest and grade levels. If you are interested in scheduling a school program or would like to help with programs, please contact the museum.



Jim Britton's Birds on Display

Story and photos by Richard Flint

For each of its 24 years, the Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival has recognized a distinguished decoy carver with the title of Honorary Chairman. The 2005 title is held by longtime carver **Jim Britton** and a group of his decoys will remain on display in the museum through the summer months.

Each Honorary Chairman is asked to present to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum for its permanent collection an example of his or her work. Their gift is then featured on the souvenir button issued for the Festival and available for purchase by the public. Jim's gift to the museum is a **Pintail Drake** shown on the cover of this issue and featured in the current exhibit. In addition, longtime collectors Dr. Ken and Judy Margolis have generously loaned 18 outstanding examples of Jim's work for the exhibit. The Margolis's recognized Jim's work early on and have developed an extensive collection of his gifted duck decoy carvings as well as several birds shown in the exhibit. Their Baltimore home displays the outstanding work of many modern carvers but Jim's work earns top comments from the couple.

Jim Britton first carved a few decoys for his own hunting use in the early 1950s and only began to carve again in the early 1980s. A lifelong resident of Reedville, Virginia, in the Lower Chesapeake region, he spent his professional life as an engineer. He first exhibited his decoy carving in 1988 and participated in the Havre de Grace Decoy Festival that year and each year since. Britton follows the simple style of the traditional working decoy of the Mid-Atlantic region but is best known for his highly-regarded decorative painting. Unlike many modern makers, he does not use a burning tool to show feathering but prefers to follow traditional ways through his fine painting work.





Calendar of Events

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.

May 2005

May-October

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

7-8

Re-enactment of the British Attack on Havre de Grace in the War of 1812. May 7th 10 – 5pm; 8th 10 – 3pm. Lock House Grounds, 817 Conestee Street Havre de Grace. The "attack" is at 1:00 on Saturday. Call 410-939-5780 for more information.

8

Mother's Day Cruise on the Skipjack Martha Lewis 12pm, 1:30pm and 3pm, \$25. Email: director@skipjackmarthalewis.org or call 410-939-4078 for more information.

9

Concord Point: Shedding Light on Havre de Grace, lecture by William MacIntyre. 7pm at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, 100 Lafayette Street, Havre de Grace. Come and learn about the developing history of Concord Point; its Lighthouse and Keeper's house. As one of the last historic properties on the Upper Chesapeake, find out the significance of Concord Point in Havre de Grace's maritime history. Call 410-939-4800 for more information and admission.

14

5th Annual Musical Mile. 5:30 – 8:30pm, located on St John, Franklin, Washington and Pennington Streets, Downtown Havre de Grace. Live musical performers playing a wide variety of music at various locations in the downtown area. Food and beverages sold on the streets. Call 410-939-4441 for more information.

21

Artquest 2005 11am – 5pm in Festival Park, Aberdeen, MD. 13th annual celebration of the arts and the artists of Harford County. Call 410-939-6401 for more information.

June 2005

3

Harford Hospice Regatta. 6:30 – 10:30pm Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, 100 Lafayette Street, Havre de Grace, MD. Call 410-638-1023 for more information and admission.

4-5

Mar*Fest – Maritime Heritage Festival. 10 – 5pm Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, 100 Lafayette Street. Our biggest event of the year! Boat displays, nautical demonstrations, lots for kids, oral history archives project, live auction and Upper Bay Soup Challenge. Call 410-939-4800 for more information and admission.

11

Scottish Festival. 12 – 5pm Steppingstone Museum, Quaker Bottom Rd, Havre de Grace, MD, Havre de Grace, MD. Scottish Clans & vendors, music and dancers, sheepherding demos, amateur games, storytelling, historical crafters, Scottish food, museum tours and more. Call 410-939-2299 for more information and admission.

25-26

Pacific Flyway Decoy Association Wildfowl Art Show – 2005 Sacramento, Ca. at the Double Tree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way. Hours: Sat 9 – 5pm, Sun 9:30 – 4pm. Fees: \$2 admission. \$5 per entry member, \$8 per entry non-member,

\$10 per entry California Carver of the Year, \$100 per wall table, \$75 per center table. Open, intermediate and novice levels. Mail-ins welcomed. Contact Terry Avila, (831) 636-8445 or Jim Burcio at (925) 754-4978 or email: jburcio@comcast.net.

26

Carving and Decoy Show – 2005. Tuckerton, Tuckerton Seaport, 120 W. Main St. (Rte 9). Hours: set-up 8am; open to the public 10 – 5pm. Fees: free admission (fee for Seafood Festival); \$35 entry fee. Held in conjunction with the Seafood and Music Festival. Contact Karen DeRossa, (609) 296 – 8868 or www.tuckertonseaport.org.

8

Margarita Cruise 7 – 9pm on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Sail with Jimmy Buffet tunes and light refreshments. Seniors 65 and older receive a \$5 discount. Call 410-939-4078 for more information and ticket prices.

10

9th Annual Sporting Clays Classic. Sponsored by the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Shoot is located at J&P Hunting Lodge, 1105 Benton Corner Rd, Sudlersville, MD. Registration begins at 9am with the last shooter on course by 12 noon. 75 targets, 4 Lewis classes with main event and concurrent events. A vintage side by side event scheduled. Museum member and non-member winner, senior, junior and ladies categories. Call 410-939-739 for more information.

10

Summer Fun Day with Lawnmower Races at the Steppingstone museum, Quaker Bottom Road, Havre de Grace, MD. Lawnmower races, ice cream eating contests, frog jumping and turtle races (must bring your own contestants), seed spitting, marble shooting, sack races, storytelling, crafts and food. Call 410-939-2299 for more information and admission.

28-31

Harford County Farm Fair. July 28 – 30 10am – 10pm; July 31 10am – 6pm. Harford County Equestrian Center, 608 N. Tollgate Rd, Bel Air, MD. 4-H exhibits, tractor pulls, midway entertainment, home arts and crafts, live bands. Call 410-838-8663 for more information and admission.

July 2005

8

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Weekend Carving Demonstrations

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MAY

Saturday	May	7	Festival
Sunday	May	8	Festival
Saturday	May	14	George Stram
Sunday	May	15	Open
Saturday	May	21	Open
Sunday	May	22	Dave Walker
Saturday	May	28	Bob Hess
Sunday	May	29	Open

JUNE

Saturday	June	4	John Ingoglia
Sunday	June	5	Patrick Vincenti
Saturday	June	11	Jeanne Hiss
Sunday	June	12	Open
Saturday	June	18	George Stram
Sunday	June	19	Bryon Bodt
Saturday	June	25	Leonard Burcham
Sunday	June	26	Open

JULY

Saturday	July	2	Open
Sunday	July	3	<i>Closed due to Parade</i>
Saturday	July	9	Open
Sunday	July	10	Open
Saturday	July	16	John Ingoglia
Sunday	July	17	George Stram
Saturday	July	23	Bob Hess
Sunday	July	24	Open
Saturday	July	30	Jeanne Hiss
Sunday	July	31	Open



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