

The Canvasback

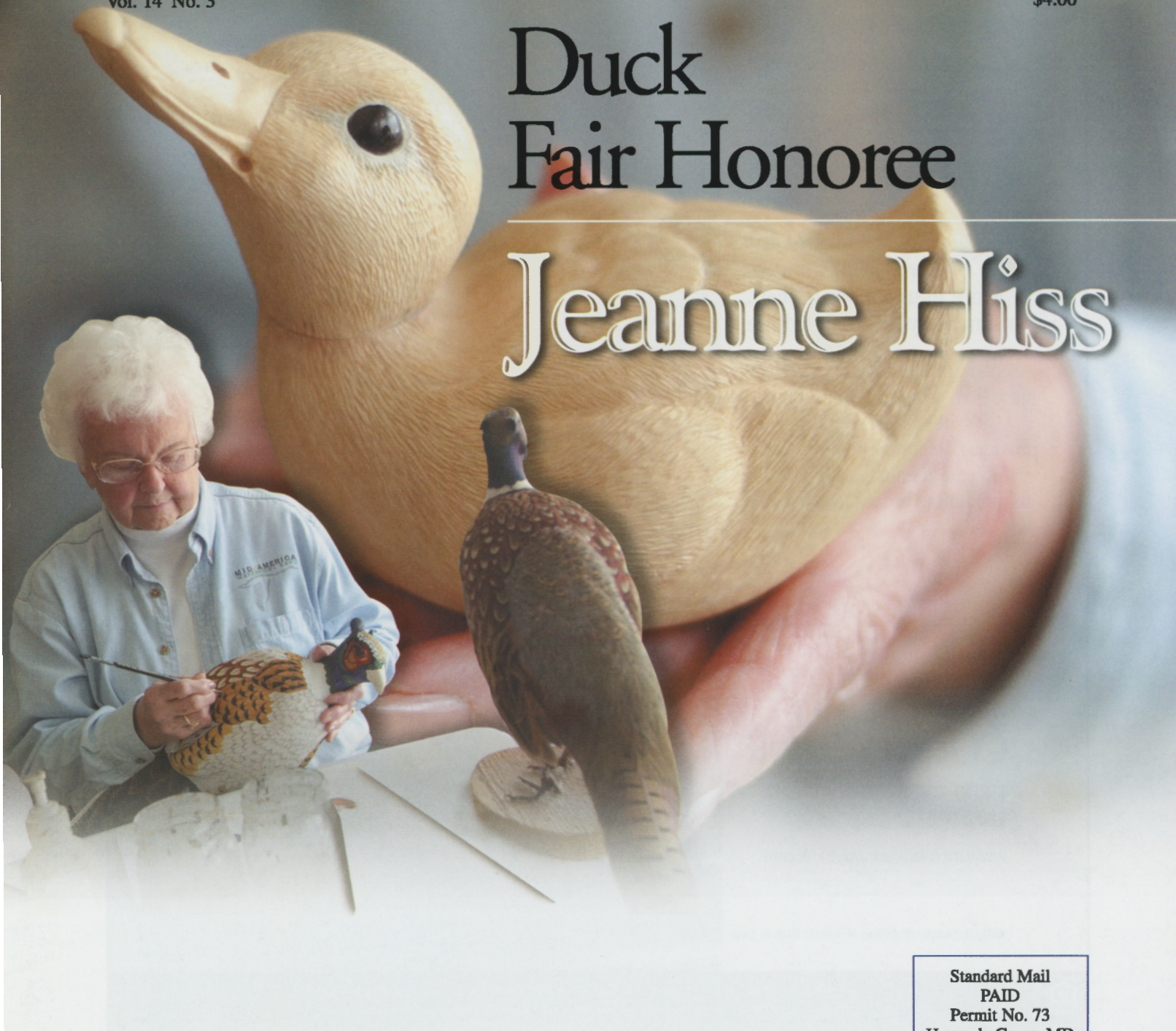
HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

Summer 2005
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Duck Fair Honoree

Jeanne Hiss



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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

*Duck Fair Honoree
Jeanne Hiss
and her birds*



FROM THE DIRECTOR



If I were to write a headline for an article discussing the use of the Decoy Museum's resources for the years ahead, I'd be debating between two modifying words—strengthening or growing—for there is a subtle difference. Growth implies expansion and while that may be in our future, it requires considerable forethought, planning, and resources. I've seen too many museums grow for the sake of size and subsequently suffer because of inadequately anticipated operating costs and hoped-for income. But growth also implies maturity and that is a definition I like. Strength, however, suggests a strong base already, an image I like to use.

The Decoy Museum is approaching its 20th year, a fitting time to undertake a five-year plan that could result in a shinning silver anniversary celebration five years hence. I remain impressed with the dedication and enthusiasm of people, past and present, who have created and sustained the Decoy Museum. As we turn the corner on twenty good years, let's look to the future to involve another generation of museum supporters and community leaders to support what is here. As I have written before, this museum is located in a prime area for heritage tourism, a proven economic stimulant and a great contributor to community pride. I would welcome hearing from those who wish to strengthen our growth.

Richard W. Flint
Executive Director

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From the President



Dear Museum Member,

When you become involved with a special project or maybe a hobby that you have a strong passion for, you tend to lose all track of time. The Decoy Museum has had the good fortune over the years to have many of these passionate people become involved as volunteers helping to interpret, present, and preserve the water fowling history on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

This coming year 2006 we will be celebrating our twenty fifth anniversaries for the Decoy Festival and the twentieth anniversary of the Museum's grand opening. It is hard to believe that twenty five years have passed so fast. None of this would be possible without the strong volunteer base or continued membership support. We intend on recognizing the efforts and achievements of these many dedicated and passionate volunteers over the coming year.

For the past four years I have had the pleasure and honor serving as the museum's board president. From this position you have the ability to view the organization's strengths and weaknesses. We continue to look for new leaders who can continue to build on our past but also take us to the next level. If you have the commitment, the resources, and the time, our Board is always seeking to strengthen itself so please feel free to contact me or the museum director, Dick Flint. If your available time is more limited and resources are in other areas, call the museum and talk to our staff.

Volunteers and membership support continue to influence all aspects of the museum's operations. We would encourage those of you that can to volunteer at our special events or if you prefer there are many daily tasks I'm sure you can help with. As members we can continue supporting all of our fund raising efforts, while at the same time spread the word of this great success story.

With your support in these two crucial areas our museum will experience continued growth and stability for the next twenty years.

Sincerely,

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.



Duck Fair Honoree

Jeanne Hiss

Carves Out
a Niche
in a
Man's Craft

by Karen Toussaint Photos by Brian Krista

From her Seneca Pointe condominium, Jeanne Hiss can look outside and see lots of waterfowl: mallards, Canada geese, hooded and red-breasted mergansers, buffleheads and canvasbacks, not to mention kingfishers, gulls and a great blue heron.

Inside her home, there's even more variety, decorative decoys she has carved over the past 20 years. And that's not counting all the decoys she has sold at shows all over the country.

Strange to say, this cheerful, white-haired grandmother never planned on becoming one of the few female decoy carvers in the area. She and her husband both had jobs—she managed the credit union at St. Joseph Hospital, and Warren Hiss managed the claims department for an insurance company—and their two children were grown and on their own. Life seemed settled in a comfortable groove.

In 1983, Jeanne Hiss made a decision which would change the course of her life.

"I wanted to make one decoy for my brother and sister-in-law who would celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in 1984," she recalled. "I started the year before so I could have one ready by then. I didn't know a chisel from a gouge."

Hiss, who was living in Reisterstown at the time, said she was somewhat intimidated when she saw she was the only woman in a decoy carving class held at a craft shop in Timonium.

"When I went back to work after the first lesson, I had Band Aids all over my fingers. I had a knife, a chisel and a gouge, and I cut my fingers on a knife, a chisel and a gouge," she recalled with rueful good humor.

When people at work found out Hiss was carving a decoy, they asked her to bring it in. Although Hiss privately called the green wing teal Bob Hope because its beak turned up, her coworkers



were enthusiastic. When she decided it wasn't good enough to give to her brother and started on a second decoy, she was approached at work about selling the first duck. She was incredulous.

"I said to Warren, 'Somebody wants to pay me money—\$100—for my duck!' I felt rich," she said.

The next year, Hiss retired from St. Joseph's and became a full-time decoy carver. She was hardworking and meticulous in her new endeavor.

"I used to work six days a week, and some days I would work eight to ten hours a day but I don't do that any more," she said. "We used to travel a lot to do shows as far away as Pittsburgh and California. Now we do only five or six shows a year.

"I work on three or four projects at a time," she said. "My hands get stiff and tired and I can't carve or paint all day, so I switch off and do a little bit of this and a little bit of that. I do my texturing at night. I can do that and listen to music or watch TV. Carving and painting take all my attention."

Hiss details fine lines in the feathers of her birds with an electric tool that hums along at 50,000 rpm, a process she calls "stoning." She uses wood burning to define the quills of the feathers.

"People don't really think about all the work that is under the paint," she said.

After Hiss had been carving for only a few years, she was invited to participate in the prestigious Waterfowl Festival in Easton. A year or so later, she got a call from the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum to come to the local Wildlife and Waterfowl Festival, where she has been a regular ever since. Her full-sized loon with chicks has found a home in the museum's collection of decorative decoys.

When a friend urged her to enter a blue-wing teal drake in a competition in 1986, Hiss didn't know then what she knows now.

"If you go to a show where they have a competition, the flat-bottomed ducks are put into the water to see how they float," she said, adding that as soon as she learned that, she tested her decoy in the water, where, its solid head over balancing the hollow body, it quickly dipped its head in the water.

"I duct-taped a couple of quarters under the tail. They don't judge anything below the water line. He kept his head up, and I won my first blue ribbon."

Hiss' decoys have won all sorts of awards, including Best in Show at the Baltimore County Department of Aging in 1994 and the Governor's Award in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1997.

Although she has carved all kinds of birds, Hiss prefers the more colorful species. Most recently, she prepared a life-sized ring-neck pheasant cock for the Southeastern Wildlife Expo held last February in Charleston, S.C.

"I like to do the wood duck because he has colors," she said. "I do hens, and hens sell well, but mostly they are all brown. I think that's why I am interested in doing that ring-necked pheasant—because he's so bright."

Hiss said people aren't used to the idea of a woman decoy carver.

"At shows, people come up, and if we are both sitting there, no one says a word to me," she said. "They ask Warren all the



questions until he finally says, "Why don't you ask the one who made it?"

At times, other carvers may not appreciate all the detail she puts into her decorative decoys.

"A local carver calls them duck look-alikes," she said. "He once told me, 'You don't carve decoys, you carve duck look-alikes.'"

She said that the late Madison Mitchell, Havre de Grace decoy carver extraordinaire, used to come by her table at shows and say as he walked away, "There's a lot of work in that, girlie."

Both Warren and Jeanne Hiss volunteer at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. When she demonstrates carving techniques, Jeanne Hiss usually shows burning and stoning. She particularly enjoys taking a bobwhite she carved in 1986 to the museum when a group of children is scheduled to come for a field trip.

(continued on page 8)

"I tell them that this bird says its name," she recalled. "Warren will hide nearby and make the call."

"We moved to Havre de Grace at the end of 2000 because of the Decoy Museum," she explained. "If something happened to one of us, you would have a big hole in your heart."

She figures that volunteering at the museum would help the survivor fill the gap.

For now, the Hisses, who will celebrate their 59th anniversary in September, are happy working together to make decoys. Jeanne Hiss does her carving in the double garage on the ground level of their condominium. Warren Hiss, who retired in 1986, cuts out wood blanks for her on a band saw in the storage area.

"I didn't start out to sell ducks," said Jeanne Hiss, who turned 77 in May. "It's almost a gift to fall in our laps to keep us busy in our old age."

Smiling, she reflected on her first night of carving class. "The teacher held up a block of wood and said, 'There's a duck in there and we will set it free.' I thought it was wonderful," she recalled. "Now at times if the wood is hard to carve, I feel like telling the duck it can stay in there."

Karen Toussaint is a staff writer for The Record, published in Havre de Grace by the Homestead Publishing Company; Brian Krista is a staff photographer for the same paper. Our thanks to Ted Hendricks, Executive Editor, for permission to re-publish this article from their January 28, 2005 issue.

Ed Watts SHOW CHAIRMAN

24th Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival Review



The weather could not have been any better for our 24th Annual Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival and a great festival it was!

Each year it amazes me to see the plain halls and gyms turned into beautiful displays of art, carvings, and paintings. This transition takes place in just a couple of hours on Friday afternoon.

There were all types of exhibitors at the show, collectors of old decoys, new carvings, artist, bronzes, and clothing (just about anything you might want to see or buy). The food vendors had hot dogs, sausages, roast beef and pork and, of course, French fries at each school.

The museum provided a catered affair for the exhibitors and benefactors on Friday evening after the show closed. On Saturday morning we also provided breakfast passes for our exhibitors at the American Legion.

Those attending the festival saw a great cash raffle of \$1000 and the ladies had an opportunity for five drawings for jewelry valued at \$2400.

The museum staff, volunteers, and the board of directors worked many hours to make the 24th Festival a special event. As usual, special events coordinator Margaret Jones, did a great job. Thanks to one and all for their help! Plans are now underway for the very special 25th Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival!

PHOTOS BY: Brendan Cavanaugh



The Festival 2005

CARVING COMPETITION RESULTS

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE FLOATING—OPEN

Diver

Goldeneye

1st—Ed Itter

Old Squaw

1st—Marsha A. Webb

Redhead

1st—Dale H. Heitkamp

Ruddy

1st—Allen Lopez

Scaup, Lesser

1st—Barry Lemily

Other

1st—Jimmy Hockett
(*Scooter*)

2nd—Earl D. Nystrom
(*Common Eider*)

Best of Diver

1st—Dale Heitkamp
(*Redhead*)

2nd—Allen Lopez
(*Ruddy*)

3rd—Marsha A. Webb
(*Old Squaw*)

Marsh

Shoveler

2nd—Tom Richie

Teal, Blue Wing

1st—Mark Strohmman
2nd—Mark Strohmman

Wood Duck

1st—John Day
2nd—Tom Richie

Best of Marsh

1st—Mark Strohmman
(*Blue Wing Teal*)

2nd—Mark Strohmman
(*Blue Wing Teal*)

3rd—John Day
(*Wood Duck*)

Best of Goose & Confidence

Canada

1st—Allen Lopez
2nd—Arnold Arnister

Other (Loon)
1st—Ed Itter

Grebe

Honorable mention—
Tom Richie

Best of Goose & Confidence

1st—Allen Lopez
(*Canada Goose*)

2nd—Ed Itter
(*Loon*)

3rd—Arnold Arnister
(*Canada Goose*)

Best of Show

1st—Mark Strohmman
(*Blue Wing Teal*)

2nd—Dale Heitkamp
(*Redhead*)

3rd—Allen Lopez
(*Ruddy*)

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE FLOATING—NOVICE

Diver

Merganser, Red Breasted

1st—Bob Lund

Other (Scoter)

1st—Charles P. Elin

Best of Diver

1st—Bob Lund
(*Red Breasted Merganser*)

2nd—Charles P. Elin
(*Scooter*)

Marsh

Black Duck

1st—John Orth

Mallard

1st—Ronald Goetzke

Pintail

1st—Ozzie May

Teal, Green Wing

1st—Steve Secord
2nd—Dwinton Morgan
3rd—Dwinton Morgan

Wood Duck

1st—Wayne W. Wheeler
2nd—Mark Dill
3rd—John L. Contte

Best of Marsh

1st—Steve Secord
(*Green Wing Teal*)

2nd—Wayne W. Wheeler
(*Wood Duck*)

3rd—Ozzie May
(*Pintail*)

Best of Goose & Confidence

Grebe

1st—Lou Masci (*Grebe*)

Best of Goose & Confidence

1st—Lou Masci

Best in Show

1st—Lou Masci
(*Grebe*)
2nd—Bob Lund
(*Red Breasted Merganser*)
3rd—Steve Secord
(*Green Wing Teal*)

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE FLOATING—INTERMEDIATE

Diver

Canvasback

1st—Jack C. Williams

Merganser, Hooded
2nd—Fred Simmerman

Old Squaw

1st—William Gore
2nd—Joe Dollard
3rd—George Buchness

Ruddy

1st—George Buchness

Scaup

1st—Frank Dagostin

Best of Diver

1st—William Gore
(*Old Squaw*)
2nd—Frank Dagostin
(*Scaup*)

3rd—Jack C. Williams
(*Canvasback*)

Marsh

Black Duck

1st—George Van Wyen

Mallard

1st—Norman Lauenstein
Honorable mention—
Jay Freeman Wright

Pintail

1st—Rodney Dennis Lee

Shoveler

1st—George Van Wyen
2nd—Nick Baubalace (hen)
3rd—Nick Baubalace (drake)

Blue Wing Teal

Honorable mention—
Jay Freeman Wright

Widgeon

1st—Joe Dollard
2nd—Al Wayson

Best of Marsh

1st—Joe Dollard
(*Widgeon*)
2nd—George Van Wyen
(*Blue Wing Teal*)
3rd—Norman Lauenstein
(*Mallard*)

Best of Goose & Confidence

Canada

1st—Roy E. Dewalt

Other Goose

1st—Gary R. Stewger

Coot

1st—Tom Heron

Best of Goose & Confidence

1st—Roy E. Dewalt
(*Canada Goose*)
2nd—Gary Stewger
(*Goose, other*)
3rd—Tom Heron
(*Coot*)

Best in Show

1st—William Gore
(*Old Squaw*)
2nd—Roy E. Dewalt
(*Canada Goose*)
3rd—Frank Dagostin
(*Scaup*)

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE NON- FLOATING—OPEN

Waterfowl

1st—Bharat Parekh
2nd—Earl D. Nystrom

Shorebirds

1st—John Schultz
2nd—Earl D. Nystrom
3rd—Richard Schepis

The Festival 2005

CARVING COMPETITION RESULTS

Honorable mention—
Ronald N. Felker

Birds of Prey

1st—Robert Allen Hostetler
2nd—Ronald Schepis
3rd—Brad Wiley

Honorable mention—
Earl D. Nystrom

Songbirds

1st—Richard Schepis
2nd—Charlotte Dutton

Interpretative

1st—James A. Gayhardt
2nd—Charlotte Dutton

Best of Show

1st—Robert Allen Hostetler
(*Birds of Prey*)
2nd—Bharat Parekh
(*Waterfowl*)
3rd—John Schultz
(*Shorebirds*)

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE NON-FLOATING—NOVICE

Waterfowl

1st—Lori Smith
2nd—Wayne W. Wheeler
3rd—Mathew Chaney

Honorable mention—
David Robbins

Honorable mention—
Frederick W. Crenshaw

Shorebirds

1st—Paul Voorhees
2nd—Chad Henry Blomquist

Upland Game Birds

1st—Chad Henry Blomquist

Birds of Prey

1st—Richard P. Wischhusen

Songbirds

1st—Dwinton Morgan
2nd—Lori Smith
3rd—George Schroeder

Honorable mention—
John Hartman

Honorable mention—
Isobel Fields

Seabirds

2nd—John A. Parsons

Best of Show

1st—Lori Smith
(*Waterfowl*)
2nd—Dwinton Morgan
(*Songbird*)
3rd—Wayne W. Wheeler
(*Waterfowl*)

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE NON-FLOATING—INTERMEDIATE

Waterfowl

1st—Rodney Dennis Lee
2nd—Joe Dollard
3rd—Samuel Wise

Shorebirds

1st—Frank Dagostin
2nd—Charles Hutson

Birds of Prey

1st—Bill Ruth
2nd—Samuel Wise
3rd—Bill Ruth

Honorable mention—
Lawrence E. Creger

Songbirds

1st—Kenneth Clodfelter
2nd—Wayne Chunut
3rd—Kenneth Clodfelter

Best of Show

1st—Rodney Dennis Lee
(*Waterfowl*)
2nd—Bill Ruth
(*Birds of Prey*)
3rd—Kenneth Clodfelter
(*Songbirds*)

MINIATURE—OPEN

Waterfowl

1st—Eddie Cheezum
2nd—Earl Nystrom
3rd—Earl Nystrom

Honorable mention—
Ralph Nester

Honorable mention—
F.J. Valentino

Honorable mention—
George Stram

Shorebirds

1st—Richard Schepis

Upland Game Birds

1st—Richard Schepis
2nd—Earl D. Nystrom
3rd—Eddie Cheezum

Birds of Prey

1st—I. Ralph Nester
2nd—Richard Schepis

Songbirds

1st—Amy Schultz
2nd—Charlotte Dutton
3rd—Richard Schepis

Best of Show

1st—Ralph Nester
(*Birds of Prey*)
2nd—Richard Schepis
(*Upland Game Bird*)
3rd—Amy Schultz
(*Songbirds*)

MINIATURE—NOVICE

Waterfowl

1st—Roy Slaughter
2nd—David Robbins
3rd—Wayne W. Wheeler

Shorebirds

1st—Roy Slaughter

Songbirds

1st—Isobel Fields

Best of Show

1st—Roy Slaughter
(*Shorebirds*)
2nd—Roy Slaughter
(*Waterfowl*)
3rd—David Robbins
(*Waterfowl*)

MINIATURE—INTERMEDIATE

Waterfowl

1st—Ted Aldeeman
2nd—James Miller

Shorebirds

1st—Amy Maddox

Songbirds

1st—Jack Bowman
2nd—Kathleen Griffith

Seabirds

1st—James Miller

Other

Penguin

1st—James Miller

Seal

1st—Amy Maddox

Interpretative

1st—Amy Maddox

Best of Show

1st—James Miller
(*Seabirds*)
2nd—Jack E. Bowman
(*Songbirds*)
3rd—James Miller
(*Penguin*)

“WHITEY FRANCK” SLICK DECOY

Diver

Bufflehead

1st—Richard E. Belote

Canvasback

1st—Jim Wilson
2nd—Chris Cloud
3rd—George Schroeder

Goldeneye

1st—Chris Cloud
2nd—Steve Secord

Merganser- Hooded

1st—William Scott Belote

Redhead

2nd—Garret Secord
3rd—Brandon Arnister

Ruddy

1st—George Schroeder
2nd—Richard E. Belote

Best of Diver

1st—William Scott Belote
(*Hooded Merganser*)

2nd—Jim Wilson
(*Canvasback*)

3rd—Chris Cloud
(*Goldeneye*)

Marsh

Black Duck

1st—Richard E. Belote
2nd—James L. Baker

Pintail

1st—Warren Saunders
2nd—James L. Baker
3rd—Warren Saunders

Shoveler

1st—Jim Wilson
2nd—Garrett Secord
3rd—Jim Wilson

Honorable mention—
William Scott Belote

Honorable mention—
James L. Baker

The Festival 2005

CARVING COMPETITION RESULTS

Teal, Blue wing

1st—William Scott Belote
2nd—William Scott Belote
3rd—James L. Baker
Honorable mention—
James L. Baker

Teal, Green Wing

1st—Jim Wilson
2nd—Steve Secord
3rd—Steve Secord

Wood Duck

1st—Steve Secord
2nd—James L. Baker
3rd—Warren Saunders

Widgeon

1st—F.J. Valentino

Best of Marsh

1st—Jim Wilson
(*Green Wing Teal*)
2nd—F.J. Valentino
(*Widgeon*)
3rd—Jim Wilson
(*Shoveler*)

BEST OF GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

Other Goose

1st—Warren Saunders

Swan

1st—Chris Cloud

Coot

1st—Richard E. Belote

Grebe

1st—William Scott Belote
2nd—William Scott Belote

Commorant

1st—William Scott Belote

Other

1st—Jeff Thomas
(*Puffin*)
3rd—Garrett Secord
(*Harlequin*)

Honorable mention—
Charles Hutson (Loon)

BEST OF GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

1st—Warren Saunders
(*other Goose*)
2nd—William Scott Belote
(*Commorant*)
3rd—William Scott Belote
(*Grebe*)

Best in Show

1st—Jim Wilson
(*Green Wing Teal*)
2nd—William Scott Belote
(*Merganser*)
3rd—F. J. Valentino
(*Widgeon*)

GUNNING DECOY

Diver

Bufflehead
1st—Gary Lawrence

Canvasback

1st—Allan R. Fry
2nd—James Romig

Goldeneye

1st—Gary Lawrence
2nd—Jeff Fitzhugh

Merganser, Red Breasted

1st—Jeff Fitzhugh

Merganser, Hooded

1st—Gary Lawrence
2nd—James Romig

Old Squaw

1st—Gary Lawrence
2nd—Jeff Fitzhugh
3rd—James Romig

Redhead

1st—Gary Lawrence

Ring Neck Duck

1st—Gary Lawrence

Ruddy

1st—Gary Lawrence

Scaup

1st—Gary Lawrence
2nd—Allen Fry

Other

1st—James Romig
(*Harlequin*)
1st—James Romig
(*Eider*)

Best of Diver

1st—Gary Lawrence
(*Bufflehead*)
2nd—Gary Lawrence
(*Old Squaw hen*)
3rd—Gary Lawrence
(*Redhead*)

Marsh

Black Duck

1st—James Romig

Mallard

1st—Gary Lawrence
(*hen*)
2nd—James Romig
(*drake*)

Pintail

1st—Gary Lawrence

Shoveler

1st—Gary Lawrence
2nd—Jeff Fitzhugh

Teal, Green wing

1st—James Romig
(*hen*)
2nd—Allan R. Fry
(*drake*)

3rd—Gary Lawrence
(*hen*)

Honorable mention—
Jeff Fitzhugh (*hen*)

Honorable mention—
Jeff Fitzhugh (*drake*)

Wood Duck

1st—Gary Lawrence
(*drake*)
2nd—James Romig
(*drake*)

Widgeon

1st—James Romig
(*drake*)
2nd—Gary Lawrence
(*drake*)

Best of Marsh

1st—James Romig
(*Green Wing Teal*)
2nd—James Romig
(*Black Duck*)
3rd—Gary Lawrence
(*Mallard hen*)

Best of Goose & Confidence

Brant

1st—James Romig

Best of Goose & Confidence

1st—James Romig
(*Brant*)

Best in Show

1st—James Romig
(*Green Wing Teal*)
2nd—Gary Lawrence
(*Bufflehead*)
3rd—James Romig
(*Brant*)

Slick Working Shorebird

1st—Shannon Dimmig
2nd—Richard E. Belote
3rd—Jeff Thomas

Honorable mention—
Richard E. Belote

Honorable mention—
Jeff Thomas

Honorable mention—
Charles Hutson

Cocktail

1st—F.J. Valentino
2nd—J. Ralph Nester
3rd—Charles Hutson
Honorable mention—
Dwinton Morgan

Fish

Freshwater

1st—James A. Gayhardt
2nd—Paul Butcher
3rd—Earl D. Nystrom
Honorable mention—
Wayne Chonat
Honorable mention—
Paul Butcher

Tropical

1st—Earl D. Nystrom
2nd—Earl D. Nystrom

Other (Whales)

1st—John Lyn Thompson
2nd—John Lynn Thompson

RIVER GUNNING DECOY

Diver

Bufflehead

1st—Gary Lawrence
2nd—George Williams

Canvasback

1st—Mike Smyser
2nd—Alan Eastman

Goldeneye

1st—Tim Bombardier
2nd—George Williams
3rd—George Williams
Honorable mention—
Alan Eastman

The Festival 2005

CARVING COMPETITION RESULTS

Honorable mention—
Mike Smyser

Honorable mention—
Charles Pratt

Merganser, Red breasted
1st—George Williams
2nd—George Williams

Merganser, Hooded
1st—Gary Lawrence

Old Squaw
1st—Bob Burrow
2nd—Howard Gaines
3rd—Howard Gaines

Ring Neck Duck
1st—George Williams
2nd—Bob Barrow
3rd—Phil Walters

Honorable mention—
Tim Bombardier

Honorable mention—
Phil Walters

Honorable mention—
Sandy Allen

Scaup
1st—Phil Walters
2nd—Gary Lawrence
3rd—Bill Sands

Harlequin
1st—Bob Barrow

Best of Diver
1st—Gary Lawrence
(*Merganser*)
2nd—Gary Lawrence
(*Bufflehead*)
3rd—Bob Barrow
(*Old Squaw*)

Marsh

Black Duck
1st—Chris Pratt
2nd—George Williams
3rd—Mike Smyser

Honorable mention—
Alan Eastman

Gadwall
1st—George Williams

Mallard
1st—George Williams
2nd—George Williams
3rd—Howard Gaines

Honorable mention—
Alan Eastman

Pintail
1st—George Williams

Teal, Green Wing
1st—Alan Eastman
2nd—Gary Lawrence

Wood Duck
1st—Mike Smyser

Widgeon
1st—George Williams
2nd—George Williams
3rd—Phil Walters

Silver Teal
1st—George Williams

Other (Widgeon)
1st—Alan Eastman

Best of Marsh
1st—George Williams
(Mallard)
2nd—George Williams
(Gadwall)
3rd—George Williams
(Widgeon)

BEST OF GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

Canada
1st—Alan Eastman

Brant
1st—George Williams
2nd—Bill Sands

Coot
1st—David Larsen

BEST OF GOOSE & CONFIDENCE
1st—George Williams
(Brant)

2nd—Alan Eastman
(Canada Goose)
3rd—Dave Larsen
(Coot)

Best in Show
1st—George Williams
(Mallard)
2nd—Gary Lawrence
(Hooded Merganser)
3rd—George Williams
(Gadwall)

YOUTH

Gunning—Divers
1st—Olivia Dutton

2nd—Lera Romig
3rd—Kyli Moors

Decorative Floating

1st—Lera Romig

Decorative—Non-Floating

1st—Jimmy Nester III

Fish—Decoy

1st—Samantha Vest

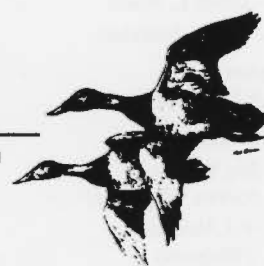
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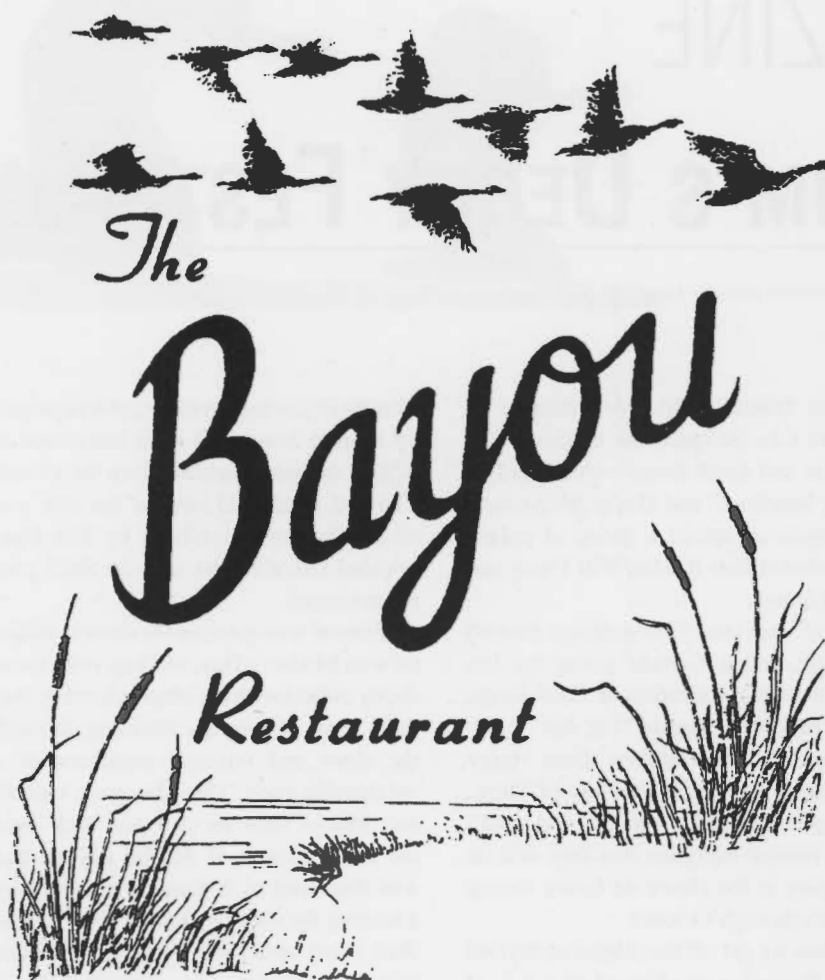
Friday, November 4

Come see a dramatic
three-dimensional painting
of ducks recently acquired
by the Decoy Museum
and meet the artists

William H. Reinbold
and
Margaret Reinbold Blair

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
at the Decoy Museum

Light refreshments will be served.
Please RSVP to the Museum at
410-939-3739.



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DECOY MAGAZINE

Reviews the

DECOY MUSEUM'S DECOY FESTIVAL

By Jim Trimble and Joe Engers (Reprinted with permission from the *May/June 2005 issue*)

"Saturday was the best single day I had in almost 20 years of doing this show," commented dealer and collector Bill Cordrey on Sunday morning over his dwindling inventory of Chesapeake Bay birds. "Friday evening was wasn't bad either," he continued, acknowledging the large crowds that flowed through the Middle School, one of the two locations for the annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival sponsored by the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum in the historic waterfowling town of Havre de Grace, Maryland, the self-proclaimed Decoy Capital of the World.

Most of the crowd that flocked through the Middle School over the weekend was looking for old decoys, and many of the vendors who handle vintage Upper Bay birds were more than pleased with the results. Vendors Chris Worch and John Collier both speculated that the fine spring weather may have helped attendance at the show, and Worch felt that "many were in a buying mood." Museum President Pat Vincenti was also pleased with the paid attendance this year. "Every time I walked the hallways they were jammed," he commented, "and the crowds in the gymnasium were constant."

Many of the serious collectors show up on Friday evening during set-up to have first pick of the inventory, and lots of birds change hands in the first few hours of the show, but the heart of the crowd arrives on Saturday, and it is busy throughout most of the day.

Saturday is also the day that *Decoy Magazine* co-sponsors the annual J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest, which includes ten categories of vintage decoys for collectors to enter their favorites. This was the third year of the competition and over 25 collectors entered nearly 100 decoys to challenge for the top hon-

ors. Jim Trimble, with the assistance of his wife Clo, accepted the entries. Chad Tragakis and Griff Evans volunteered as "decoy handlers," and *Decoy Magazine's* Joe Engers organized a group of judges that included Bob Biddle, Will Freng and Larry Laramy.

There were lots of good decoys entered this year, and a Canada goose by Jim Holly from the collection of Griff Evans barely beat out a pair of "Fat Jaw" bluebills by the Ward brothers from Henry Stansbury's collection for Best of Show. We've pictured all the winners, and would like to remind everyone that they will be on display at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum through October.

Before we get off the subject of the Old Decoy Contest, a quick word on a pair of swimming buffleheads from the collection of Henry Krotee that won the Best Unknown category. Branded J. Schick, the judges recognized these as being from the same hand as another group of buffleheads that surfaced about 15 years ago at a Virginia Beach show. There are also blueheads, redheads, and swan, some also with the J. Schick brand, which have occasionally shown up in the Miller's island area of the Chesapeake Bay. Krotee explained that the decoys were part of his father's gunning rig. His father was an avid duck hunter from Baltimore who used the decoys in the Dundee and Salt Peter Creek areas north of Baltimore, not far from Miller's Island. The maker is presently unknown, so they can be attributed only by the brand, but whoever made these fine little birds has stirred the interests of more than one collector.

At the end of the day on Saturday the show sponsors a small fundraising decoy auction at the High School, the other show venue. The top lots were a blue goose by

Charlie Bryan and an early goldeneye pair by Charlie Joiner that each hammered at \$2200, drawing applause from the crowd. The best of the old birds at the sale was an iron-keeled canvasback by Ben Dye, branded GRACE that sold for \$625 plus the premium.

Sunday was quiet, as the show conflicted with Mother's Day, and hey, even some decoy collectors have other priorities. But there was still traffic trickling through the show and business continued at a measurable pace. This also gave exhibitors lots of time to chat and look over the small exhibit of Mason decoys that was displayed by a handful of collectors attending the show, including Griff Evans, Will Freng and John Clayton. Exhibitor Phil Ryser liked the idea so much that he's considering taking an extra table next year to display a group of Huff family decoys from his collection. The more the merrier! We also enjoyed talking with Dick Flint, the new director of the Decoy Museum, who milled about and introduced himself to many at the show.

Next year will be the 25th anniversary show. Each year the show committee selects an honorary chairman, and this year the show gave tribute to Jim Britton, a carver and long-time supporter. In past years, they have honored Madison Mitchell, Paul Gibson and Jim Currier, among many others. Our suggestions for the 25th anniversary show would be John "Daddy" Holly (1819-1892), a prolific decoy maker who created the Havre de Grace style, a style that is still mimicked by many Havre de Grace decoy makers, including those mentioned above.

For more information on next year's Decoy & Wildlife Festival contact the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum at (410) 939-3739.

A Collective Portrait of our Festival Visitors

by Richard Flint

In order to better understand our Festival visitation, the Decoy Museum conducted its first-ever large-scale survey and attendance analysis. We plan on using the results to better market the event and to understand more about our audience so that we can improve future Festivals. In our survey of over 2000 people, one-third told us they have been to five or more Festivals and another third said it was their first visit.

Friday evening attracted a small but avid crowd and dealers encountered brisk interest from serious buyers. Saturday welcomed the largest crowds, over half of the entire Festival attendance. Sunday's

attendance total sat between the first two days but many more of these visitors were first time attendees, attesting to the strong word-of-mouth advertising that reflects the continued success of the museum's annual Decoy Festival. Most visitors (30%) told us they learned of the Festival from a friend. Other popular ways of discovering the event were by seeing our unmistakably large roadside silhouette canvasback duck decoys or by reading a newspaper ad or calendar of event listing (each about 12%) though many were reminded of the event through multiple media.

Paid admissions showed a strong increase of 10.6% over 2004, a year that was up by 1.9% over 2003. Even though this year's Festival weekend fell on Mother's Day, which will not happen next year, over 42% of ticket buyers were women. Visitation reflects a strong local interest with 40% coming from our own Harford County and next-door Cecil County. Nearby Wilmington and Newark, Delaware along with the York/Lancaster area of Pennsylvania brought in a quarter of all Festival goers with the remaining 35% coming from most states of the Union. Our national draw helps to enhance the visitor experience of tourists traveling in the area who hear about the event but it also represents annual trips made by a dedicated group of decoy aficionados.



*Plan now to attend the
19th Annual
Anniversary Dinner*

*Saturday, November 5, 2005
at the
Bayou Restaurant
Havre de Grace, Maryland*

*Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m.
Dinner at 7 p.m.*

Featuring "oyster can" raffles, live auction, and more!

Come and join us for good food, fine company, and lively bidding for this year's Museum Decoy. This year's limited edition Ringneck is carved in the Upper Bay tradition by students of Madison Mitchell and painted by Joey Jobes.

The number 1 bird of the Museum Decoys will be auctioned after dinner. Only those attending the dinner will have the opportunity to be included in a drawing to purchase one of the remaining twenty-four birds at a purchase price of \$250.00.

Fall Raffle 2005

To Benefit
Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

This year's prizes are especially wonderful!
You have an opportunity to win one of the following four prizes;

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1st Drawing | Jeanne Hiss | <i>Baby gosling with a butterfly on its bill</i> |
| 2nd Drawing | Dave Walker | <i>Full size Canada Goose</i> |
| 3rd Drawing | Joey Jobs | <i>Pair of Mallards</i> |
| 4th Drawing | Frank Mueller | <i>Full size canvas swan</i> |

Winners drawn at 8 p.m.
Sunday, December 11, 2005
during Candlelight Tour and Carvers Celebration at the Decoy Museum

Ticket Cost: \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00

Tickets are available. If you would like more, or have not received yours yet, you can pick them up at the museum.

For more information call 410-939-3739

— In Memoriam —

IN MEMORY OF

Ron Rue

Ronald L. Rue, 73, a life-long Cambridge, Dorchester County, resident and decoy carver passed away on April 28, 2005. He was the Honorary Chairman of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's 1997 Festival and a long-time exhibitor.

Rue was born in Cambridge on November 4, 1931, and attended local schools before serving in the Navy during the Korean War. He then worked for 29 years for Western Printing. Rue made his first decoys about 1948 to supplement his own rig and carved his first decorative, a merganser, about 1953 or 1954. Rue did not use a lathe for his carving work. He soon found his way to the Ward brothers in nearby Crisfield and his frequent visits were reflected in his own decoy making. He later taught carving lessons for 30 years and was a regular exhibitor at the Easton Waterfowl Festival from its inception in 1971.

Rue is remembered by many as one who was "witty and quick with stories of his early years." His well-attended funeral was followed by internment at the East New Market Cemetery. He is survived by his wife of fifty years, Peggy, daughter Anna R. Brohawn, two grandchildren, his brother Smitty, and an aunt and uncle.

Carver and 1997 Honorary Chairman





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Highlights of the 2005 Sporting Clay Classic

By Bob Haas



The 2005 Sporting Clay Classic held on July 10th was an outstanding success. It really could not have been otherwise due to the great prizes awarded to over 30 participants, the generosity of our sponsors, and the talented staff at J&P's Hunting Lodge and Sporting Clays.

Steve Lay shot a remarkable 73 out of 75 to take home the member Champion prize which was the Havre de Grace Decoy of the year 2004. The non-member Champion was Dan Suggs of Aberdeen, who shot a 71.

This year featured carvers from the famous Crisfield area of Maryland. Mr. Oliver Lawson provided us with four outstanding drake Buffleheads for first prize in each class. George Bell carved for this shoot, four Wood ducks and four miniature Goldeneye, all were admired by the participants. Our hardluck prize was a pair of Zack Ward Bluebills. Other decoy prizes were provided by Havre de Grace carvers Captain Harry Jobes and Pat Vincenti.

For the second year the vintage side by side competition drew much interest and many old and new doubles were seen on the course. Next year we plan to expand this popular competition.

If you shoot a shotgun, be sure to make plans to attend the 2006 Classic. It is a fun event and, regardless of ability, everyone has a chance to win a quality prize.

Next year's Classic will showcase collector quality decoys from Delaware carvers.



2005 CLAY SHOOT WINNERS

Museum Member Champion	Steve Lay, 73
Non-Member Champion	Dan Suggs, 71
Side-by-Side Champion	John Mercer, 64
1 st Junior	Casey Lynch 60
2 nd Junior	Ty Davidson, 39
1 st Lady	Deborah Fleming, 65 (50 LR)
2 nd Lady	Ingrid Sigler, 64 (20LR)
1 st Senior	Bob Hickok, 70
2 nd Senior	Robert Jones, 69

CLASS I

1 st	Joe Uniatowski, 70 (28LR)
2 nd	Mike Parkhurst, 70 (24LR)
3 rd	Danny Curry, 69
4 th	Marshall Klinefelter, 68 (39LR)

CLASS II

1 st	Robert Nickerson, 63 (27LR)
2 nd	Ken Mariner, 63, (21LR)
3 rd	Bert Jackson, 63(20LR)
4 th	Jack Kemp, 63 (19LR)

CLASS III

1 st	Robert Silvernail, 60 (24LR)
2 nd	Stuart Shelly, 60 (23LR)
3 rd	John Soistman, 60 (22LR)
4 th	Ed Henry, 60 (15LR)

CLASS IV

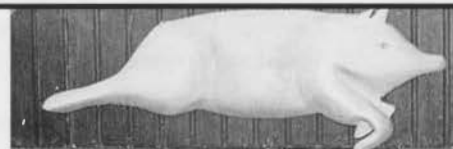
1 st	Charles Ministero, 52 (24LR)
2 nd	Cheryl Anne DeHart, 52 (13LR)
3 rd	George Nicholson, 50 (10LR)
4 th	Bill Schaubert, 50 (9LR)

Hard Luck Prize	Gary Sargable
Participation Prize	Joe Uniatowski
.....	Robert Silvernail
.....	Casey Lynch

What is the Clay Shoot?

The 9th Annual Clay Shoot, held at J&P Hunting Lodge in Sudlersville, MD, was a course of 75 clay targets. Winners are determined by total targets hit. In the event of a tie, the winner is determined by how many consecutive targets were hit, or the long run (LR). Shooters can compete in different categories such as Senior, Lewis Class and Museum Membership. Winners can only win one prize and must make a choice if they win in more than one category. The "Hardluck" prize is awarded by a drawing. The 10 lowest scoring shooter names are placed in a hat and the winner is picked. The popular "Vintage Side by Side" shoot is a category where the shooter uses a vintage shot gun that the two barrels are side by side instead of over top of one another or a single barrel.

The Decoy Museum's annual Clay Shoot can be a fun afternoon for the family. Shooters enjoy themselves on the course and lunch is a pleasant picnic at the lodge. Try to join us next year.



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24th Annual Decoy Festival Auction Results

Buyer's and seller's premiums from this event went to benefit the Decoy Museum.

LOT #	PRICE	ITEM
1	\$450.00	Canvasback sinkbox pair by Charles Bryan — signed & dated*
2	\$275.00	Mallard Pair by Jim Pierce — original paint — stamped JP, signed
3	\$325.00	Highhead Canvasback by Sam Barnes — JP carved in bottom (Joel Pussey) Circa 1950
4	\$150.00	Bluebill hen early RMM gunning decoy painted by Speed Joiner
5	\$125.00	Brant by Walter Smith
6	\$75.00	Goldeneye by Walter Smith
7	\$70.00	Ringneck by Walter Smith
8	\$60.00	Greater Scaup by Walter Smith
9	\$60.00	Bluewing Teal by Walter Smith
10	\$90.00	Semipalmated Plover by Walter Smith
11	\$60.00	Passenger Pigeon by Jamie Reader
12	\$25.00	Miniature Merganser Drake by Steiner Pierce
13	\$40.00	Hooded Merganser Drake by Vernon Bryant
14	\$40.00	Bluewing Teal Drake, Parker Holley Style
15	\$70.00	Highhead Canvasback Drake by Parker
16	\$50.00	Brant by Parker
17	\$40.00	Brant by Bryan Bodt
18	\$90.00	Brant by Harry Jobes dated 1991
19	\$150.00	Miniature Decorative Redhead Pair by Patrick Vincenti
20	\$110.00	Cork Bluebill hen by Mike Smyser
21	\$35.00	Cork Goose
22	\$90.00	Canvas Swan
23	\$50.00	Canvasback branded by Charles "Pete" Wilbur, Island Heights NJ
24	\$210.00	Canvasback drake by Sam Barnes (1857-1926) Havre de Grace
25	\$110.00	Canvasback hen by Sam Barnes (1857-1926) Havre de Grace
26	\$80.00	Virginia Barrier Island Merganser, maker unknown
27	\$2,200.00	Blue Goose by Charles Bryan, signed and dated
28	\$100.00	Black Head Drake by Capt. Jess Urie, Rock Hall, MD, possibly original paint

LOT #	PRICE	ITEM
29	\$100.00	Model Rail Boat with oars, stand, push pole and anchor by Howard "Ducky" Foreaker — signed and dated 1997
30	\$160.00	Model "Sneak" Boat with 4 oars, steering oar & anchor by Howard "Ducky" Foreaker — signed and dated 1996
31	\$375.00	Coot by Bob Litzenberg, signed & dated 1990 — original paint, Excellent condition
32	\$425.00	Green Wing Teal by Madison Mitchell, signed & dated 1981, original paint, Excellent condition
33	\$140.00	Canvasback Drake by James Holly, 1900's old working repaint
34	\$120.00	Canvasback Drake by Sam Barnes, 1900's worn original paint, Fair condition
35	\$70.00	Sam Barnes Body with Rehead about 1910, repaint by the Holly Family
36	\$625.00	Canvasback Drake by Ben Dye, circa 1890's, old working repaint, Iron Keel, Branded Grace
37	\$300.00	Red Head Hen by Will Heverin, circa 1910, old working Charlestown paint, Good condition
38	\$300.00	Canvasback Hen by Madison Mitchell, circa 1950's, original paint, branded, Good condition
39	\$2,300.00	Crow Decoys in original shipping box, Animal Trap/Victor Litiz, PA, circa 1940's
40	\$190.00	Canvasback Hen by John Holly, old working repaint, branded, S Y TECH
41	\$325.00	High Head Canvasback Drake by Robert McGaw, hand chopped, circa 1900, repaint by Capt. Jess Urie
42	\$100.00	Black Duck by Dr. McGraw, Perryville, MD circa 1930's with old working repaint, Good condition
43	\$170.00	Redhead Drake by Capt. Jess Urie, Rock Hall, MD circa 1940, original paint, Excellent condition
44	\$120.00	Black Head Drake by Capt. Jess Urie, repaint by John Glenn, circa 1930's, Good condition
45	\$90.00	Black Head by John Glenn, circa 1930's, paint taken down to original

LOT #	PRICE	ITEM
46	\$25.00	Canvasback miniature , cast lead by Bob Bendler
47	\$80.00	Numbered print of Bob Litzenberg by Hogans 1986
48	\$210.00	Canvasback by Leonard Pryor Type 2
49	\$60.00	Old Chesapeake Bay Canvasback , unknown
50	\$70.00	1950's Talbot County Canvasback from Tred Avon River Rig
51	\$60.00	Gunning Coot — Art Boxleitner Brand
52a	\$425.00	Pintail Pair , by Jim Britton, Honorary Chair
52b	\$450.00	Red Breasted Merganser Pair , by Jim Britton, Honorary Chair
52c	\$475.00	Goldeneye Pair , by Jim Britton
52d	\$200.00	Brant , by Jim Britton
52e	\$225.00	Swan , 1/3 size by Jim Britton
53	\$50.00	Redhead Drake , Dick & Linda Robinson 1995
54	\$90.00	Blackduck , Bob Jobes Special Edition w/ stand 1998
55	\$40.00	Coot Miniature , Bob Jobes 1997
56	\$50.00	Hissing Canada Goose Miniature , Bob Jobes 1993
57	\$90.00	Mallard Drake by Jim Pierce, signed and dated 1991
58	\$110.00	Redhead Drake by Jim Pierce, signed and dated 1991
59	\$275.00	Bluebill Drake , R Madison Mitchell, signed and dated 1958
60	\$450.00	Blackduck , R Madison Mitchell, signed and dated 1947
61	\$175.00	Bluebill Drake , Bob Magaw
62	\$180.00	Bluebill Drake , Capt Jess Urie, signed and dated 1951
63	\$30.00	Signed Print by Tom Dunnington, Bald Eagle
64	\$40.00	1989 D U Stamp & Print , signed by Artist
65	\$325.00	Redhead Sleeper Drake , Evans McKinney
66	\$130.00	1/2 Size Bluebill Pair , Howard "Ducky" Foreacre
67	\$150.00	Canvasback Pair by Patrick Vincenti
68	\$50.00	Thomas Point Lighthouse , Limited Edition Signed Print
68a&b	\$400.00	<i>Item added day of auction.</i>
69	\$110.00	Cork Brant Pair by Rick Stephens
70	\$120.00	Green Wing Teal Pair by Rick Stephens
71	\$60.00	Mourning Dove by Rick Stephens
72	\$110.00	Canvasback Pair by Reneson
73	\$140.00	Bufflehead Pair by Roe Terry dated 1991
74		Bronze Eagle Statue

LOT #	PRICE	ITEM
75	\$60.00	Oversize hollow-body Canvasback Drake by Rineer
76	\$100.00	Old Squaw Drake by Rineer
77	\$35.00	Old Squaw Hen by Rineer
78	\$70.00	Canvasback Drake , Leonard Pryor head with Holly body, Old working repaint
79	\$80.00	Canvasback Drake , unknown maker, possibly Holly Body and paint from the rig of John Smith Michael
80	\$60.00	New Jersey Black Duck , original paint, Excellent condition
81	\$50.00	Goose Decoy from the Losby Rig , Gibson Island circa 1950's, Hand chopped
82	\$210.00	Canvasback Hen by Paul Gibson, circa 1950's, original paint, Good condition
83	\$140.00	Canvasback Drake , circa 1920's, possibly an ice decoy, maker unknown, with old working repaint
84	\$275.00	Green Wing Teal Pair by J Milton Watson, original paint, Good condition, signed by Mr. Watson
85	\$25.00	Lamp with Mallard Miniature Pair by Bobby Jobes
86	\$40.00	Mallard Drake , maker unknown
87	\$250.00	Black Duck Drake by Madison Mitchell circa 1940's
88	\$225.00	Black Duck Drake by Madison Mitchell circa 1940's
89	\$120.00	Canvasback Pair painted by Clarence Baurer, bottoms flattened
90	\$20.00	Half Size Mallard Drake by Howard O'Neill Signed/dated 1983
91	\$275.00	Full size Coot by Madison Mitchell
92	\$40.00	Factory Decoy , shot holes maker unknown
93	\$2,500.00	Woodduck pair by Madison Mitchell, signed/dated 1982, Excellent condition
94	\$150.00	Mallard Pair by Joe Cook (hen reaching)
95	\$35.00	Loon , Georgian Bay by Rod Paddison
96	\$40.00	Mallard Hen by Joey Jobes
97	\$55.00	Redhead by Bobby & Charlie Jobes
98	\$50.00	Canvasback Drake by Bobby & Charlie Jobes
99	\$75.00	Loon Fish Decoy , branded DFD
100	\$15.00	Charles T. Wilson Reproduction
101	\$45.00	Severn Hall Coot Reproduction by Butch Parker
102	\$80.00	<i>Item added day of auction.</i>



Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Membership Information

Please complete the following information and return with payment to:

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, 215 Giles St., Havre de Grace, MD 21078

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewed Membership

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Gift From: _____

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☐ Life (\$500)

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☐ I would like information on volunteer opportunities.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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- ✦ Complete auction coverage
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- ✦ National calendar of all decoy shows
- ✦ Photographs of over eighty decoys, many in full color

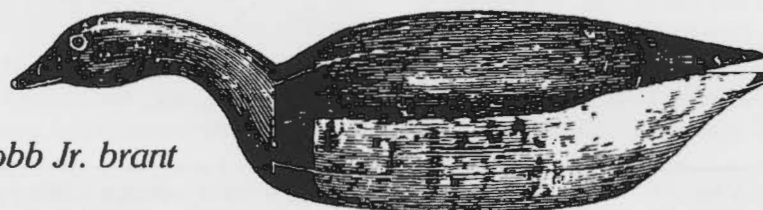
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Nathan Cobb Jr. brant

Greetings from Havre de Grace!

By David R. Craig and Mary Martin

People have been writing "Greetings from Havre de Grace" since at least August 13, 1789, the date of the first postmarked piece involving the city. The first postmaster, John H. Barney, was appointed well before that, making Havre de Grace one of the oldest postal addresses not only in Maryland but in the country.

People still debate how to pronounce the name of this city and many still argue about who first suggested its name but there is no argument that it means "Harbor of Mercy" or that it is a wonderful place to live, work, play, and visit. It was incorporated by the Maryland General Assembly in 1785 making it the second oldest municipality with a continuous charter in the state; only the capital city, Annapolis, is older. The census of 2000 showed that it was Maryland's twentieth largest incorporated city.

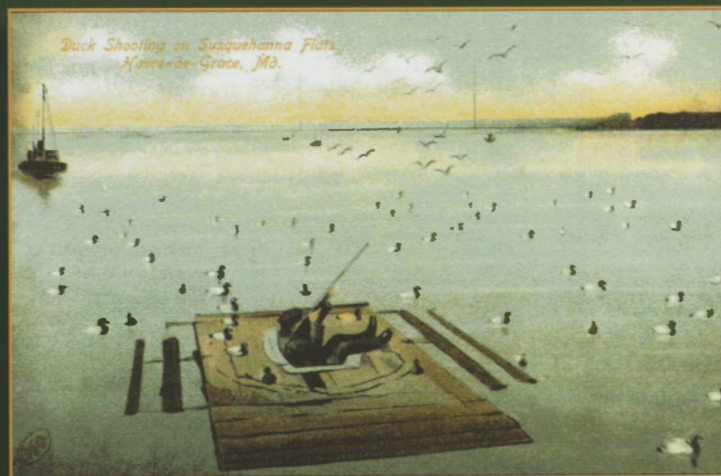
Location was important in its settlement: the Susquehanna River was a major obstacle in north/south travel and a ferry was started here in 1695. The town was sacked and burned by marines attached to a British fleet during the War of 1812 making it one of the few American cities to suffer from foreign invasion. The Susquehanna Tidewater Canal brought economic vitality to the town starting in the late 1830s. During the Industrial Revolution, the city's economy was driven by its location next to the abundance of the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay as well as the fertile farmland surrounding it. Harvesting shad and rockfish, gunning for prized Canvasback ducks, and canning vegetables were common livelihoods.

There is little doubt that Havre de Grace's main attraction is its waterfront. In the 19th Century people made their living on the water. In the 21st century people retire to the water. Havre de Gracians have had a love-hate relationship with the waterfront since they settled here. The town got its start as a fishing and boat-building center and as a ferry crossing. In fact, early maps show the area being called "Lower Susquehanna Ferry." Gunning the flats was also a common livelihood. Later commerce included shipping, freight hauling, and passenger transport. Many locals were "watermen" in the true sense of the word. Others were called "Captain" because they owned a boat.

When the day's work was done, however, they returned to their homes which faced away from the river—their work space.



219 RAIL BIRD SHOOTING, HAVRE DE GRACE, MD. WEST, PUBL. CARD CO. N. Y.



The hunter reclined in a coffin-like sinkbox with wooden wings spread out for stability.



One did not, however, stand up and shoot!
—All postcards courtesy of William Smart.

The waterfront was an area for docks and piers, shipbuilding, warehousing, and manufacturing. Surprising to many people today is that several prime locations were actually used as city dumps; this was true as late as the mid-1950s!

It was not until the 1980s that people began to build homes along the river. Now it is an area dotted with parks, condos, and museums dedicated to those long-lost professions.



A Festival Remembered

Photos by Brendan Cavanaugh



Carver Charlie Bryan visited with many friends



Visitors enjoyed themselves as they strolled past the vendor's tables.

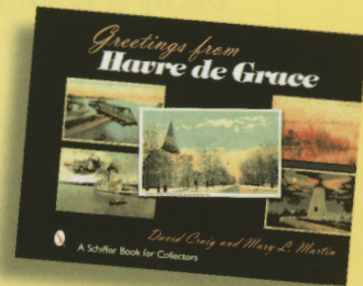


Colorful Decoys



Summer Canvasback 2005

New City History Book Now Available in the Museum Gift Shop



"Greetings from Havre de Grace" is a new book that documents the rich history of the "Harbor of Mercy" in 265 postcard images from the first half of the 20th century. The cards, reproduced in full color, depict well-known local landmarks such as the former racetrack, the old "double-decker bridge" over the Susquehanna River, and many waterfront and duck hunting scenes for which the city is famous.

The book is not intended to be a full history of Havre de Grace, nor is it intended to be a post card collector's complete catalogue of all the post cards which exist of Havre de Grace. In one sense the book is almost like a family photograph album of Havre de Grace. The authors expressed the wish that "As you turn its pages, we hope it evokes memories of the past and an increased desire to preserve much of what makes this city a great place in which to live, work, and to visit."

Author David R. Craig is the new Harford County Executive and well-known as a local historian. He is a former middle school assistant principal and history teacher with the Harford County Public Schools. Craig also served several terms as mayor of Havre de Grace and is a former state senator. He and his wife, Melinda, live in an historic home which they have restored in the heart of the city.

Co-author Mary Martin heads Mary Martin Postcards, a three-generation family business that is the largest postcard operation in the world. In addition to a warehouse facility in Perryville, Maryland, the company is a presence at postcard shows worldwide, and produces many shows, including the United State's largest postcard show in York, Pennsylvania, every November.

The Canvasback is grateful to Schiffer Publishing and the authors for permission to reproduce brief excerpts from their new book. Autographed copies are available in the Gift Shop at the Decoy Museum.



HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

EVENTS FOR 2006

Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival
Friday, Saturday & Sunday,
May 5, 6 & 7

Sporting Clay Classic
(held in Sudlersville, MD)
Sunday, July 9

Duck Fair
Saturday & Sunday,
September 9-10

Anniversary Dinner
Saturday, November 4

Candlelight Tour & Carver Celebration
Sunday, December 10

About the EVANS MCKINNEY OLD DECOY CONTEST

At the annual Havre de Grace Decoy Festival held in early May, a panel of judges selects winners for each of ten categories of historic decoys. The categories, which vary each year, include makers, geographic regions, and types of ducks. The winning entries, displayed here, include examples from serious aficionados as well as casual collectors demonstrating that many people can still discover exemplary decoys.

The contest honors J. Evans McKinney (1913-2000), recognized as the best authority on decoys from this region and author of *Decoys of the Susquehanna Flats*. Born in nearby Elkton, Maryland, McKinney carved his first decoys for his own use in the 1940s. These were "hand-chopped" but beginning about 1950 he started using lathe-turned bodies by R. Madison Mitchell of Havre de Grace until reverting again to hand-chopped decoys in 1981 when Mitchell sold his shop. McKinney was a beloved individual who enjoyed sharing his knowledge and was also active in efforts to protect the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay.

See page 29 for Contest Winners

Fascinating Facts Forthcoming: ***Life Story of Perryville Carver*** ***is Upcoming Feature by Chad Tragakis***

Taylor Boyd left behind some incredible decoys. At the height of his talent, he was perfecting in Cecil County what Charles Nelson Barnard (1876-1958) would accomplish across the river in Harford; magically transforming wood into the most regal, majestic of decoys. Boyd's decoys are truly some of the finest ever to float at the head of the Chesapeake Bay. But who was Taylor Boyd? While collectors have prized his sleek and stately decoys for decades, the man behind them has essentially remained a mystery. They have been identified and included in several of the major reference works covering Upper Bay birds beginning with Evans McKinney's *Decoys of the Susquehanna Flats and Their Makers* in 1978 and Henry Fleckenstien's *Decoys of the Mid-Atlantic Region* in 1979. However, in both of these excellent works, the few that have followed, and within the institutional memory of the collecting community, little is known or presented about Boyd the man.

Decoy historian Chad Tragakis, a frequent contributor to *The Canvasback*, will reveal his full, in-depth story, "Taylor Made: The Life and Decoys of Taylor Boyd, One of Maryland's Most Acclaimed, Yet Least Documented Makers," in the next *Canvasback*. In it, readers will discover and learn about:

- Taylor Boyd's early occupation as a brakeman on the Pennsylvania Railroad, one of the most dangerous jobs in America at the time.
- How his rural upbringing and thrift manifested itself in the production of his exceptional decoys.
- His deep and longstanding friendship with Joe Coudon, one of Perryville's richest men.
- His years in Philadelphia and the many important links between that city and gunning on the Susquehanna Flats.
- His connections to Havre de Grace master decoy maker and boat builder, Jim Holly and Holly's vast network of friends, family and associates.
- His life in Baltimore and his emotional return to Perryville, the place of his birth, where he would spend his final years.

~3RD ANNUAL~

J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest Winners

AN ANNUAL FEATURE OF THE HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY FESTIVAL

Judges: Bob Biddle, Will Freng and Larry Laramy



Best In Show & Best Upper Bay Goose

James Holly Canada Goose, Ca. 1890

Havre de Grace, MD

Original Paint and Condition

from the Boyd Family Rig

COLLECTION OF GRIFF & DEBBIE EVANS



Best Upper Bay Decoy with Iron Weight

Ben Dye Redhead Drake, Ca. 1870, Perryville, MD

Working Repaint—ELB Weight from Rig of

Edward L. Bartlett

COLLECTION OF JIM & CLOE TRIMBLE



Best Henery Lockard Decoy—Any Species

Elk Neck MD, Redhead Pair, Ca. 1930

COLLECTION OF RANDY FUTTY



Best Bob McGaw Decoy

Black Duck, Ca. 1935. Havre de Grace, MD

Excellent Original Condition

COLLECTION OF S.R. SMITH



Best Upper Bay Matched Pair

Will Heverin Redhead Pair, Ca. 1930, Charleston, MD

Excellent Original Paint and Condition

COLLECTION OF NATE HEESE



Best Ward Bros. Duck Decoy—Any Species

"Hog Jaw" Bluebill Pair, Ca. 1918, Crisfield, MD

Worn Original Paint—Made in the "Old Barbershop"

COLLECTION OF HENRY STANSBURY



Best Mid-Bay/Eastern Shore Redhead (non-Ward)

Ed Phillips Redhead Drake, Ca. 1930, Golden Hill, MD

Original Paint and Condition

COLLECTION OF GRIFF & DEBBIE EVANS



Best New Jersey Black Duck

William Quinn, Delaware River

Original Paint and Condition

COLLECTION OF JOHN & DARA CLAYTON



Best Virginia Brant

Ira Hudson Brant, Ca. 1930, Chincoteague, VA

Original Paint and Condition— "Bob-O-Del" Rig

COLLECTION OF HENRY STANSBURY



Best Unknown

Bufflehead Pair, Ca. 1900, Chesapeake Bay Area

COLLECTION OF HENRY KROTEE



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

Special Exhibits at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

The Decoys of Jeanne Hiss, Honorary Duck Fair Chair, through October
Dramatic Duck Dioramas: the Work of the Reinholds, opening November 4
Far From Home: Decoys from Afghanistan, opening Veterans Day, November 11
Santa Claus and His Decoys, opening December 11

Tours Reservations

Book your spring tours early. Talk to your children and grandchildren's teacher now about signing up for Decoy Museum Tours. Harford County students are free and we have several different tours to offer for different age/grade levels. Scout programs are also available.

September 2005

September-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.

10-11

18th Annual Duck Fair at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Sat. 9-5 Sun. 10-4. Wildlife carvers and artists selling and displaying their works. Retriever dog demonstrations, live and silent auctions, children's activities, decoy painting session, ugly duck contest, bake sale, raffles and more. All located overlooking the beautiful Susquehanna River. Call 410-939-3739 for more information. ADA accessible.

17-18

Annual Maryland Lighthouse Challenge at the Concord Point Lighthouse. Sat. 1-6pm, Sun. 8-6pm. Admission for Adults \$2; Children \$1.

24-25

Fall Harvest Festival & Crafts 11-5pm at the Steppingstone Museum. Scarecrow making, pumpkin painting, apple bobbing and pressing, hay rides & hay maze, country music, clogging, square dancing, storytelling, craft booths, baking contests, food and more. Call 420-939-2299 or 1-888-419-1762 for more information.

October 2005

Weekends in October

10-6pm, Fridays open until 9pm. Brad's Produce, 550 Asbury Rd, Churchville, MD. Corn maze, hayride to U-pick pumpkin patch, apples, mums, fall decorations, cider, refreshments available, scarecrow making, pumpkin painting. Call 410-734-GROW for more information and cost.

8-9

10th Annual Colonial Craftsmen Weekend, Sat. 10-5pm, Sun. 11-4pm at historic Jerusalem Mill Village, 2813 Jerusalem Road, Kingsville, MD. Living History Colonial encampment, period crafts, cooking demonstrations, music, sutlers, blacksmithing, food and children's activities. Call 410-877-3560 for more information.

9

Swanfest, 11-4pm at Swan Harbor Farm, 401 Oakington Road, Havre de Grace, MD. The grounds will be covered with the sights and sounds of autumn and host to a bevy of activities for the young 410-939-8887 for more information.

16

Lighthouse cruise on the Skipjack Martha Lewis from 12-3pm. Get a water view of the area lighthouses. Call 410-939-4078 for more information. ADA accessible.

November 2005

5

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Anniversary Dinner at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace. Celebrate 24 years of history with good food, fun, friends and a live auction. Proceeds directly benefit the Museum. The doors open at 6pm. Call the Museum for ticket and reservation information.

11, 12, 13

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

12

Founder's Day Party at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum. A big "Thank You" party to all who've helped, who've joined and who've stayed on through the years to support the museum goals and stages. Runs from 6-10pm. Call 410-939-4800 or email museum@comcast.net for more information.

December 2005

3-4

Holiday open house at the Steppingstone Museum from 12-4pm. Historic Farmhouse decorated for the holidays, music, storytelling, cookies & cider, tours, and the museum store is open. Call 410-939-2299 or 1-888-419-1762 for more information and admission cost.

10-11

The Christmas Boutique, Sat. 9am-1pm, Sun. 4-8pm at the Lock House, Havre de Grace, MD. This sale has many handmade items, as well, as traditional gifts, wreaths, greens and gourmet goodies. A 1/12th scale model of the Lock House will be auctioned on a silent auction. An historic setting for traditional holiday sales. Call 410-939-5780 for more information.

11

33rd Annual Candlelight Tour of Havre de Grace from 4-8pm. Throughout the City of Havre de Grace this annual holiday treat continues to be a signature event for the city. Visitors will be able to walk through homes, churches, B&Bs, museums and other interesting attractions and join in the spirit of the holidays. Call 410-939-5780 for more information.

11

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Candlelight Tour and Carver Celebration. Stroll through the museum and enjoy the holiday decorations and the see the famous "Duck Head" Christmas tree. Different carvers and artists will be on hand displaying and selling their works. Call 410-939-3739 for more information. ADA accessible.

2005 Carving Demonstrations

AT THE HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 22, 2005 Jeanne Hiss
 Sunday, October 23, 2005 open
 Saturday, October 29, 2005 open
 Sunday, October 30, 2005 open

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 5, 2005 Joe Cook
 Sunday, November 6, 2005 open
 Saturday, November 12, 2005 Joe Cook
 Sunday, November 13, 2005 John Ingoglia
 Saturday, November 19, 2005 Patrick Vincenti
 Sunday, November 20, 2005 Frank Muller
 Saturday, November 26, 2005 Jeanne Hiss
 Sunday, November 27, 2005 open

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 3, 2005 Joe Cook
 Sunday, December 4, 2005 Mike Gleason
 Saturday, December 10, 2005 open
 Sunday, December 11, 2005 Candlelight Tour
 Saturday, December 17, 2005 Lennie Burcham
 Sunday, December 18, 2005 Paul Butcher
 Saturday, December 24, 2005 open
 Sunday, December 25, 2005 closed

JANUARY

Saturday, January 7, 2006 Mike Gleason
 Sunday, January 8, 2006 open
 Saturday, January 14, 2006 Bob Hess
 Sunday, January 15, 2006 open



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