

The Canvassback

HAVRE DE GRACE DEC

Summer 2006
Vol. 15 No. 3

\$4.00



*Jeff
Moore*

2006 Duck Fair
Honorary Chairman

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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

*Honorary Duck Fair Chair,
Jeff Moore with samples
of his work.*



FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Friends of the Museum:

As most of you are aware, the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is temporarily without an Executive Director and, hence, is in need of an interim *Canvasback* Editor until an Executive Director comes on board. Your Board of Directors has asked me to fill that interim role.

As the editor of this issue, I have been able to see, up close and personal, the amazing quantity and variety of activities organized promoted and/or sponsored by the Museum. In this issue you will see information about last May's 25th Annual Decoy and Wildlife Festival, the recently completed Clay Shoot, and the upcoming Duck Fair. The Museum News feature outlines the many educational and outreach activities that go on constantly and the Annual Report lists Museum accomplishments in 2005. This is all being played out against the backdrop of the ongoing project to redesign the first floor exhibit area as well as the upcoming re-accreditation process; not to mention the need to be constantly repairing and maintaining the physical plant.

All this makes one sit back and wonder at how much the Museum is able to accomplish with a very small staff and ready, willing, and able volunteers. They deserve our praise and thanks.

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

Enjoy the magazine and we'll see you at the Duck Fair.

John T. Case
Interim Editor

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From the President



Dear Museum Member,

In 2006, we have been working to complete a planned exhibit for our new main gallery. This exhibit has been on the boards for some time beginning with Debra Pence and the Chesapeake Gateways Foundation. All new exhibits require much planning and one other ingredient, "Money."

The Board of Directors made up its mind to raise the money needed to start and complete this exciting exhibit. The fundraising started in March 2006 and our exhibit "What is a Decoy?" is underway.

John Quarstein was brought in to write the text and to guide us thru this project. Meetings were held with the Collections Committee (Patrick Vincenti, Ed Watts, Griff Evans) and Dr. Quarstein to determine what artifacts we have that would best represent and make this exhibit.

Much work will have to be done to prepare the new exhibit area. All the artifacts currently on display must be removed and placed in storage. There will be new exhibit areas built on both the first and second floors.

The new exhibit area will require the demolition of ceilings and walls back to the original structure. As you receive your summer *Canvasback* this work will have begun. We will build a wall with windows so that our members and guests can view the progress. Stop by often and watch the new exhibit come to life.

We have raised \$205,000 and still need to raise \$95,000 to complete the new exhibit. Please make a contribution to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum for this project. We will have a Grand Opening in December for "What is a Decoy."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed Watts".

Ed Watts

The Canvasback is a quarterly publication of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. All rights are reserved. No material may be reprinted without prior written permission of the publisher. Send letters to the editor, inquiries for display advertising, and requests for membership to:

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(410) 939-3739

Funded in Part By:

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

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



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IN MEMORY OF Allen W. Purner, Sr. (1921–2006)

Cecil County and the decoy collecting world lost the last of the Upper Bay greats this week. Allen W. Purner, Sr. died Friday, July 14, 2006. He was 85 years of age. Mr. Purner was born in January 31, 1921, the second child of Martha and Marshall Purner. He attended the public school in Charlestown, and later North East High School. He married Mary Barahora in 1941 and had 5 children.

Growing up in Cecil County, Allen's interests turned, at a very early age, to activities on the North East River, including fishing and hunting. As a young boy, he lived in Charlestown and was a childhood neighbor of Scott Jackson and Will Heverin, who often took time to discuss with Allen the old days of market gunning on the North East River and Susquehanna Flats.

In 1942, Mr. Purner enlisted in the Army, serving in the Pacific theater during World War II. Mr. Purner was a War Hero; he was awarded the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart, among other Awards and Medals.

When he returned to Cecil County after the War, Allen again took to activities on the North East River, spending every spare moment, fly-fishing; hunting; elling; gigging for frogs, and crabbing. When not engaged in one of these activities or caring for his family, Allen was hard at work at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in the paint shop.

By the mid 1960's, Mr. Purner had "the fever." "Decoy fever" is that feeling that only a true collector can have when he is hot after a particular bird. Allen had it, and he had it bad. Although Allen had been carving decoys for his own use for some time, patterned off Heverin's, in 1964 he made his carving a commercial enterprise. It is estimated that Allen made approximately 2000 birds in all. In the late 1960's, Allen and his friends established the "Cecil County Hunters Association, Inc." and held the first Upper Bay Decoy Show at the Elkton Armory on November 19, 1967. This show is still in existence today, held each year in North East, Maryland. Allen was also instrumental in the establishment of the Upper Bay Museum in North East. Many of the displays in the Museum were developed by Allen and most, if not all the boats, were rehabilitated by Allen. When the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum wanted to develop a display to represent the Susquehanna Flats, Allen helped acquire artifacts for the "Gunning the Flats" display.

Allen was a talented woodworker. He made bushwhack boats, railbird boats and of course, decoys. Allen is best known for his dead ducks, but his real talent was his decorative flying decoys. Allen also made shorebirds and fish carvings. Allen got great pleasure in delivering his birds to his customers, especially children. Many of Allen's decoy collecting friends had small children, whose birds were kept out of reach. Allen would relish in the expression of a young child when handed a decoy the child could call his own.

Sincerely,
Rod Wittstadt



Allen Purner (right) with close friends Robert Litzenberg (left) and J. Evans McKinney

IN MEMORY OF Clarence "Titbird" Bauer

On May 23rd, 2006, at the age of eighty-one, Clarence "Titbird" Bauer died at his home in Titusville, Florida. Titbird had a long bout with cancer, but in a conversation he had with Glenn Higgins two or three weeks before he passed, Titbird said he was not willing to give up. That is truly an example of the tenacity of the man we will remember.

Clarence "Titbird" Francis Bauer was born in Havre de Grace November 4th, 1924. Titbird loved the water and spent much of his youth hunting and fishing on the famed Susquehanna Flats and that is where his interest in waterfowl began. He spent so much time in the marshes his grandmother gave him the nick name "Titbird."

During World War II Titbird served in the Army and was active in the European Theater. After his discharge he began working at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Edgewood Arsenal with Round Demolition Munitions. Titbird was an active member of both Joseph L. Davis American Legion Post 47 and VFW Post 8126.

When we think of decoys, the upper Chesapeake Bay, and Havre de Grace carvers it is impossible not to mention Titbird. He worked for the late Madison Mitchell for over thirty-two years. Titbird is extremely well known for the miniatures he carved. The various species include all ducks, geese, and swan found locally. Later works evolved to include species located in Florida and Alaska. In the paint room Titbird's real talents were revealed. When it came time to paint he was in his element. He had the unique ability to mix oil paints to achieve a particular color needed and the talent to blend colors together to create soft and subtle transitions.

Like the old-timers before him, Titbird was very giving of his time and knowledge. Many of the local decoy makers have benefited from their association with him, especially me. If you were to compile a list of the carvers Titbird has interacted with it would read like this; Jim Currier, Madison Mitchell, Joe Fallon, Ed Sampson, Elmer Simpser, Ed Mauldin, Charlie Joiner, Harry Jobs, Jim Pierce, John Riesinger, Wolfie Boyd, Howard Coulter, Jim Crouch, Bill Collins, Steve Lay, Pat Vincenti, Dave Walker, Gilmore Wagoner, John Clark, Bob Jobs, Charles Jobs, and Joey Jobs. Titbird was a life member of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and will always be remembered fondly by those who knew him and will forever be associated with the Havre de Grace Decoy community.

Titbird is survived by his wife Sylvia, seven children, and eight grandchildren. On behalf of the staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, and many friends associated with the Decoy Museum we extend our deepest sympathy to the entire Bauer family.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.

Sincerely,
Patrick Vincenti

Margaret Jones' Festival '06 Review

If you missed this year's Festival, you missed a lot of fun. In addition to the wonderful exhibitors and informational booths by museums and community organizations, you missed seeing Uncle Pete with Kids. He entertained children with their favorite songs and dances in front of the Middle School on Sunday morning.

Bernie Bodt brought his battery gun boat to the promenade below the Museum and gave hourly demonstrations and talks on battery guns and gun boats. The noise this gun made rivaled anything the Aberdeen Proving Ground had. It has been a number of years since Mr. Bodt has given these demonstrations. It was a huge success and a crowd pleaser. It made for an excellent addition to the show and complemented the latest display in the Museum from the Michael family bequest. If you have not seen the punt gun or the Holly decoys that make up this display, it is a must see.

The retriever dogs, the carving competitions and the auctions were well attended. New this year at the carving competition was a special category involving carved moose antlers. These highly unique pieces dazzled everyone who saw them.

Undoubtedly, one of the most sought after activities, the decoy painting for beginners was well attended. Thanks to Mother Goose (aka Jeanne Hiss) people were lined up to



Bernie Bodt and his faithful assistant during the Battery Gun demonstration.



Jim Collier, Middle School Exhibitor.

sign up for the limited spaces. Eighteen kids of all ages were able to paint a mallard duck at the High School auditorium on Saturday afternoon. The group had such a good time they managed to knock out the power to half the auditorium's exhibitors.



ABOVE: Past Honorary Chairmen (L-R) Harry Shourds, Oliver Lawson, Charlie Bryan, Jim Britton, Capt. Harry Jobs, Charlie Joiner

BELOW: A crowd enjoys one of the 2006 Festival outdoor events.



The exhibitors took this in stride, but were very happy to regain their lights.

Visitors to the show were buying, swapping and trading decoys. Some excellent bargains were made. Contemporary decoys and decorative carvings were located throughout the show with several new carvers making their debut. Antique duck enthusiasts were not disappointed. Many antique dealers were present. Exhibitor Will Freng showcased a special exhibit on Mid-Atlantic Black Ducks while Phil & Beverly Ryser presented one on the Huff Family Decoys, East Long Branch, NJ, 1840-1950. This special exhibit dedicated to antique decoys began with last year's show and has quickly become a crowd favorite. If you missed these two fine exhibits, you will have to make it a must visit next year.

Thanks again to all the volunteers, staff, board members and exhibitors to who generously lent their time, talents and energy to this year's Festival. We hope you join us again next year, or if you missed us this year to find room on your calendar. Mark it now, the 26th Annual Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival will be May 4, 5 & 6, 2007!

Patrick Vincenti

SHOW CHAIRMAN

A Word from the Festival Chair

This year's Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival serves as our 25th anniversary. We want to congratulate and thank George Williams for serving as our honorary chairman.

The festival continues to be the single largest annual fund raiser for the Decoy Museum and without the continued support of both our dedicated volunteers and local community this would not be possible. Thank you to all.

As with past festivals we opened Friday to a brisk crowd, then later that evening the Decoy Museum; with the help of MacGregor's Restaurant, hosted a catered reception on the second floor of the Museum. This event was designed for our exhibitors, sponsors, benefactors, and volunteers to show our appreciation for their continued support. Once again it was a great success; MacGregor's did an excellent job.

Saturday we hosted a mixture of events from carving competitions and children's painting with "Mother Goose" (our own Jeanne Hiss) held at the High School, battery gun demonstrations at the Museum, retriever demonstrations, goose & duck calling demonstrations, the J. Evans McKinney old decoy contest (all three held at the middle school), and finally wrapping up the day back at the high school for the live auction. As always Sunday was a little more laid back but still provided many of the day before activities.

With this over look of the weekend's activities you can see how vital the volunteers are. Without them and their continued support this event as well as many

others hosted by our local organizations and museums could not be possible. So with that said, if anyone has the time or interest in volunteering for upcoming events or next year's festival please contact the Museum or me directly.

Once again we want to thank the Museum's staff, volunteers, and Directors for their many ours of hard work and dedication to the Decoy Museum and all of its special events. Thank you to all for making our 25th Festival a success.

BOTTOM LEFT: Recognition Award for founding the Museum. (L-R) Allen Fair, Jim Pierce, Dick Flint, and Mitch Shank. Arthur Asher and Donna Asher receiving recognition on behalf of their father, Donald Asher, who was the inspiration for the first festival.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Festival 2006 Exhibitor Reception.



▼ Black Duck Exhibit by Will Feng.

▼ Huff Family display presented by Phil & Beverly Ryser.



FESTIVAL 2006

CARVING COMPETITION RESULTS

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE FLOATING—OPEN

Diver

Merganser, Hooded

- 1st—Nick Balalace
2nd—Nick Balalace

Old Squaw

- 1st—Mark Strohman

Ruddy

- 1st—Allen Lopez

Best of Diver

- 1st—Mark Strohman
Old Squaw
2nd—Allen Lopez
Ruddy Duck
3rd—Nick Balalace
Hooded Merganser

Marsh

Black Duck

- 1st—John Day

Gadwall

- 1st—William Gore

Shoveler

- 1st—Ed Itter
Wood Duck
1st—James Ralph Nester Sr.

Best of Marsh

- 1st—William Gore
Gadwall
2nd—James Ralph Nester Sr.
Wood Duck
3rd—John Day
Black Duck

Best of Show

- 1st—William Gore
Gadwall
2nd—Mark Strohman
Old Squaw
3rd—Allen Lopez
Ruddy Duck

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE FLOATING—NOVICE

Diver

Bufflehead

- 1st—Charles P. Elin

Canvasback

- 1st—Dwinton Morgan

Scaup

- 1st—Julie Harper

Best of Diver

- 1st—Dwinton
Canvasback
2nd—Charles P. Elin
Bufflehead
3rd—Julie Harper
Scaup

Marsh

Black Duck

- 1st—Dwinton Morgan

Pintail

- 1st—Ozzie R. May Sr.

Shoveler

- 1st—Julie Harper

Wood Duck

- 1st—Wayne W. Wheeler

Best of Marsh

- 1st—Dwinton Morgan
Black Duck
2nd—Wayne W. Wheeler
Wood Duck
3rd—Julie Harper
Shoveler

Best of Goose & Confidence

Swan

- 1st—Mike Ervine

Other (Loon)

- 1st—Clyde Roberts

Best of Goose & Confidence

- 1st—Mike Ervine
Swan
2nd—Clyde Roberts
Loon

Best in Show

- 1st—Dwinton Morgan
Black Duck
2nd—Dwinton Morgan
Canvasback
3rd—Wayne W. Wheeler
Wood Duck

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE FLOATING—INTERMEDIATE

Diver

Bufflehead

- 1st—Jason P. Fleming

Canvasback

- 1st—Larry Windon

Merganser, Hooded

- 1st—Larry Windon

Merganser, American

- 1st—Al Wayson

Old Squaw

- 1st—Ken Glassman
2nd—Frank Dagostin

Redhead

- 1st—Larry Windon

Ring Neck Duck

- 1st—William P. Bailey
2nd—Ronald R. Janich

Best of Diver

- 1st—Ken Glassman
Old Squaw
2nd—Frank Dagostin
Old Squaw
3rd—Jason P. Fleming
Bufflehead

Marsh

Black Duck

- 1st—George Van Wyen

Gadwall

- 1st—Ken Glassman

Pintail

- 1st—Ronald R. Janich

Shoveler

- 1st—Larry Windon
2nd—Ronald R. Janich

Blue Wing Teal

- 1st—Frank Dagostin

Green Wing Teal

- 1st—Joe Dollard

Wood Duck

- 1st—Norman W. Lauenstein
2nd—Kenneth Clodfelter

Best of Marsh

- 1st—Ken Glassman
Gadwall
2nd—Norman W. Lauenstein
Wood Duck
3rd—Joe Dollard
Green Wing Teal

Best in Show

- 1st—Ken Glassman
Gadwall
2nd—Ken Glassman
Old Squaw
3rd—Frank Dagostin
Old Squaw

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE NON-FLOATING—OPEN

Shorebirds

- 1st—Richard Scheple
Whimbrel

Upland Game Birds

- 1st—Alan W. Humes
Bobwhite Quail
2nd—Paul Butcher
Bobwhite Quail
3rd—Bill Rothe
Woodcock

Birds of Prey

- 1st—Barry Parekh
Screech Owl
2nd—Marsha A. Webb
Screech Owl
3rd—Lee Ayers
Peregrine Falcon

Songbirds

- 1st—Catherine J. Emory
Hummingbird
2nd—Jeff Moore
Chickadee

Interpretative

- 1st—Carolyn Meyer
Moose Antler

Best of Show

- 1st—Carolyn Meyer
Moose Antler
2nd—Catherine J. Emory
Hummingbird
3rd—Barry Parekh
Screech Owl

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE NON-FLOATING—NOVICE

Waterfowl

- 1st—Thomas F. Walsh
Wood Duck
2nd—Dwinton Morgan
Hooded Merganser
3rd—Thomas F. Walsh
Teal, Green wing

- HM—Sam Grasso
Widgeon

- HM—Sam Grasso
Mallard

Shorebirds

- 1st—Ron Kussrow
Great Blue Heron
2nd—George Schroeder
Snowy Egret

CARVING COMPETITION RESULTS

3rd—Leon J. Boninu
Lesser Yellow legs

Upland Game Birds

1st—Alan W. Humes
Bobwhite Quail
2nd—Robin Cavey
Dove
3rd—Jerome P. Geurpts
Ruffed Grouse

Birds of Prey

1st—Douglas Jackson
Burrowing Owl
2nd—Thomas A. Kepley
Osprey
3rd—Mathew Chaney
Eagle
HM—Thomas P. Kepley
Bald Eagle
HM—Thomas F. Walsh
Screech Owl

Songbirds

1st—Al Riedal
Blue Bird
2nd—Douglas Jackson
Pileated Woodpecker
3rd—John Parsons
Redhead Woodpecker
HM—Fred Crenshaw
Pileated Woodpecker

Best of Show

1st—Thomas F. Walsh
Wood Duck
2nd—Dwinton Morgan
Hooded Merganser
3rd—Al Riedal
Blue Bird

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE NON-FLOATING—INTERMEDIATE

Waterfowl

1st—Roy E. DeWalt
Mandarin Duck
2nd—George Van Wyen
Canvasback
3rd—Thomas Logullo
Wood Duck
HM—Phil Nevin
Cinnamon Teal
HM—Phil Nevin
Greater Scaup

Shorebirds

1st—Frank Dagostin
Semi Palmated Plover
2nd—Patrick McKinney
Rudy Tunstone

Upland Game Birds

1st—Bill Ruth
Bobwhite Quail

2nd—Bill Ruth
Woodcock

Birds of Prey

1st—Donald F. Booth
Prairie Falcon
2nd—Donald R. Booth
Sharp Shinned Hawk
3rd—Hazel K. Goodwin
Red Shoulder Hawk
HM—Bill Ruth
Red Tail Hawk

Songbirds

1st—Ray Slaughter Jr
Marsh Wren
2nd—Gary Stenger
Chestnut Sided Warbler
3rd—Frank Dagostin
Carolina Wren
HM—Gina Sebald
Hummingbird
HM—G. James Miller
Kingfisher
HM—Samuel Wise
Kingfisher
HM—Thomas Logullo
Kingfisher
HM—Samuel Wise
Flicker

Miscellaneous—Interpretive

1st—Samuel Wise
Unpainted, Natural wood, Green-wing Teal

Best of Show

1st—Roy E. DeWalt
Mandarin Duck
2nd—Donald F. Booth
Prairie Falcon
3rd—Ray Slaughter Sr
Marsh Wren

MINIATURE—OPEN

Waterfowl

1st—Richard Schepls
Canada Goose

Shorebirds

1st—Richard Schepls
Long Billed Curlew
2nd—Charlotte Dutton
Sanderling

Birds of Prey

1st—Richard Schepls
Osprey
2nd—Richard Schepls
Great Horned Owl
3rd—Eddie Cheezum
Peregrine Falcon

Songbirds

1st—Richard Schepls
Carolina Wren

Best of Show

1st—Richard Schepls
Long Billed Curlew
2nd—Richard Schepls
Great Horned Owl
3rd—Richard Schepls
Canada Goose

MINIATURE—NOVICE

Waterfowl

1st—David Robbins
Canada Goose
2nd—Ron Kussrow
Loon

Shorebirds

1st—Thomas J. Rolte
Sanderling

Birds of Prey

1st—Paul Voorhees
Sew Wit Owl
2nd—Thomas J. Rolte
Bald Eagle

Best of Show

1st—David Robbins
Canada Goose
2nd—Paul Vorhees
Sew Wit Owl
3rd—Ron Kussrow
Loon

MINIATURE—INTERMEDIATE

Waterfowl

1st—Phil Nevin
Swan
2nd—Ted Alderman
Loon
3rd—Samuel Wise
Green-wing Teal

Shorebirds

1st—Roy Slaughter
Green Heron
2nd—Gary Stenger
Godwit
3rd—Amy Maddox
Snowy Egret

Upland Game Birds

1st—Ted Alderman
Turkey

Birds of Prey

1st—Donald F. Booth
Peregrine Falcon
2nd—James Miller
Eagle

Songbirds

1st—Roy Slaughter
Northern Cardinal

Other

1st—Amy Maddox
Pig

Best of Show

1st—Donald F. Booth
Peregrine Falcon
2nd—Roy Slaughter
Green Heron
3rd—Roy Slaughter
Northern Cardinal

"WHITEY FRANCK" SLICK DECOY

Diver

Bufflehead

1st—Charlotte Dutton

Canvasback

1st—Jim Wilson
2nd—Jim Wilson

Merganser-Hooded

1st—Jeff Thomas
2nd—Wayne W. Wheeler
3rd—William S. Belote

Redhead

1st—Tom Thorp

Ring Neck

1st—Jim Wilson
2nd—Tim Kucera

Ruddy

1st—Jim Wilson
2nd—Jim Wilson

Scaup

1st—James L. Baker

Best of Diver

1st—Tom Thorp
Redhead
2nd—Jim Wilson
Canvasback
3rd—Jim Wilson
Ruddy

Marsh

Black Duck

1st—Christopher Cloud

Gadwall

1st—Ted Mysinger

Mallard

1st—Jim Wilson
2nd—Tim Kucera
3rd—Tony Moen

Pintail

1st—Ted Mysinger

CARVING COMPETITION RESULTS

Teal, Blue wing

- 1st—William S. Belote
2nd—Ted Mysinger

Wood Duck

- 1st—Jim Wilson

Best of Marsh

- 1st—Jim Wilson
Mallard
2nd—William Belote
Blue-wing Teal
3rd—Christopher Cloud
Black Duck

Best of Goose & Confidence

- Other Goose-Nene Goose*
1st—Warren Saunders
Other Goose-Cackling Goose
1st—William S. Belote

Other Goose-Ross Goose

- 1st—Richard E. Belote

Best of Goose & Confidence

- 1st—Warren Saunders
Ross Goose
2nd—Warren Saunders
Nene Goose
3rd—William Belote
Cackling Goose

Best in Show

- 1st—Tom Thorp
Redhead
2nd—Warren Saunders
Ross Goose
3rd—Jim Wilson
Mallard Hen

GUNNING DECOY

Diver

- Bufflehead*
1st—William Belote
2nd—James Romig
3rd—Allan Fry

Canvasback

- 1st—Allan R. Fry
2nd—Rob Enders
3rd—Rob Enders
HM—Steven Secord

Merganser-Red breasted

- 1st—Jeff Fitzhugh
2nd—Heck Rice

Merganser-Hooded

- 1st—William Belote

Merganser-American

- 1st—James Romig

Old Squaw

- 1st—Heck Rice

Redhead

- 1st—Heck Rice

Ring Neck Duck

- 1st—James Romig
2nd—Lera Romig

Ruddy

- 1st—Vince Barble
2nd—Al Wayson

Scaup

- 1st—James Romig

Best of Diver

- 1st—Vince Barble
Ruddy
2nd—James Romig
(not specified)
3rd—William Belote
Bufflehead

Marsh

- Black Duck*
1st—James Romig
2nd—Lera Romig
3rd—Ross Smoker

Mallard

- 1st—Allan Fry

Pintail

- 1st—James Romig

Teal, Green wing

- 1st—James Romig
2nd—Jeff Fitzhugh
3rd—Allan Fry

Teal, Cinnamon

- 1st—Jeff Fitzhugh
2nd—Jeff Fitzhugh

Wood Duck

- 1st—Allan Fry
2nd—James Romig
3rd—Heck Rice

Best of Marsh

- 1st—James Romig
Pintail
2nd—James Romig
Black Duck
3rd—Allan Fry
Mallard

Best of Goose & Confidence

- Canada*
1st—Heck Rice
Cackling Goose
1st—William Belote
Cormorant
1st—Heck Rice

Swan

- 1st—Heck Rice

Coot

- 1st—Heck Rice
2nd—Ross Smoker
3rd—Heck Rice

Grebe

- 1st—James Romig

Other — Gull

- 1st—Heck Rice

Other — King Eider

- 1st—James Romig

Best of Goose & Confidence

- 1st—William Belote
Cackling Goose
2nd—James Romig
King Eider
3rd—Heck Rice
Cormorant

Best in Show

- 1st—Vince Barble
Ruddy
2nd—William Belote
Cackling Goose
3rd—James Romig
Pintail

Slick Working Shorebird

- 1st—William Belote
Spotted Sandpiper
2nd—Charlotte Dutton
Avocet
3rd—Jeff Thomas
Plover

Best in Show

- 1st—William Belote
Spotted Sandpiper
2nd—Charlotte Dutton
Avocet
3rd—Jeff Thomas
Plover

Gunning Cocktail

- 1st—Charlotte Dutton
Scoter

FISH

- 1st—Richard Bagley
Spanish Mackerel
2nd—Ronald N. Felker
Bass
3rd—Richard Bagley
Flounder
HM—Ames Belote
Rainbow Trout
HM—Charlotte Dutton
Manatee

Best in Show

- 1st—Richard Bagley
Mackerel

- 2nd—Ronald N. Felker

Bass

- 3rd—Richard Bagley

Flounder

RIVER GUNNING DECOY

Diver

- Canvasback*
1st—Jim Wilson
2nd—Jim Wilson

Golden Eye

- 1st—Mike Smyser
2nd—Heck Rice
3rd—Jeff Thomas

Merganser-Red breasted

- 1st—Jeff Thomas

Redhead

- 1st—Mike Smyser

Scaup

- 1st—Mike Smyser
2nd—Chris Cloud
3rd—Tim Kucera

HM NEAL COHEN

Best of Diver

- 1st—Heck Rice
Goldeneye
2nd—Chris Cloud
Scaup
3rd—Jim Wilson
Canvasback

YOUTH

Gunning

- 1st—Lera Romig
Ring Neck
1st—Olivia Dutton
Scaup

Decorative-Non-Floating

- 1st—Aaron Felker
Bluebird

Fish

- 1st—Samantha Vest .Large
Mouth Bass

Best of Show Youth

- 1st—Lera Romig
2nd—Samantha C. Vest
3rd—Olivia Dutton

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

by Margaret Jones

Thank you to all who volunteered this year at the Festival. Without your help, we could not run the show as smoothly as it is. It takes many hands to keep the show doors open. Thank you for lending your valuable time and energy to us this year. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities at the show that only require a few hours one day. Just give me a call to find out how you can become part of the 2007 Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival.

Bernie Bodt
Howard Bond
Barney & Nancy Bratcher
William Brendle
Gail Burcham
Paul & Elaine Bushman
Nora Bye
Joanne Calder
John Case
Peggy Cecchine
Sue Coakley
Eleanor Coale
Douglas Coats
Janet Cohen
Bill Collins
Laura DeNardo
R. M. Mitchell Chapter Ducks
Unlimited
Joe Engers
Allen Fair
Griff Evans
Will Freng
J. R. Gamble
Ken Glassman
Dick & Jane Gottwalk
Carolyn & Perry Hargis
Havre de Grace High School
SMILES group
Dale Heitkamp
Warren & Jeanne Hiss
Judy Horne

Paul & Liz Houshall
John Ingoglia
Brandon Jones
Ian Jones
Morgan Jones
Robert Jones
Bradley Keach
Henry Krotee
Mary Lay
Ron Levison
John & Torinda Lutz
Dennis Meadowcroft
John Mitchell
Kay Morrison
Charles Packard
Kevin Peel
Jennifer Retzlaff
William Roberts
Phil & Bev Ryser
Audrey Sellers
Madelyn & Ells Shank
Ken Stevenson
George Stram
Jim Trimble
Patrick Vincenti
Ed Watts
Pat Whited
George Williams
Rod Wittstadt
Jay Freeman Wright

Additional Festival Patrons

We appreciate and pay credit to all our patrons. The following patrons did not make it into our Festival 2006 issue. As a result, we are listing them here.

Paul I. Caldwell
Howard & Bonnie Nickle
C. Rennie Smith

2006 CLAY SHOOT WINNERS

Museum Member Champion Joe Squires 66
Non-Member Champion Dave Baldwin 70
Side-by-Side Champion Dave de Fernelmont 67
1st Junior Cole and Clark Callahan (tie)
1st Lady Diane Clark 68
1st Senior Carter Stanton 69

CLASS I

1st. David Grant 69 (25LR)
2nd Danny Curry 69 (20LR)

CLASS II

1st Robert Silvernail 69 (19LR)
2nd Michael Saylor 69 (16LR)

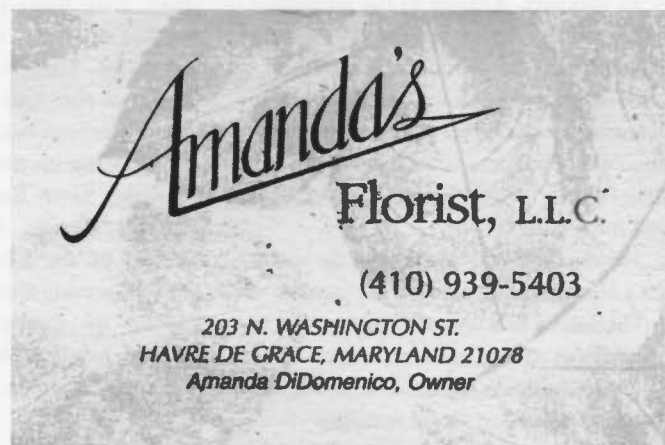
CLASS III

1st. Tom Jones 59 (17LR)
2nd Dee Orr 59 (6LR)

CLASS IV

1st. Danny Bramble 52 16LR)
2nd Bob Haase 52 (6LR)

Hard Luck Prize Charles Fritze





Costumed Shooter
at the 2006 Sporting
Clay Classic.



TOP: Danny Shooting.
BOTTOM: Danny Curry, 2nd Place
Lewis Class.

Decoy Shoot

by Bob Haase

Well another successful SPORTING CLAY CLASSIC is over.

This year's shoot was challenged by a schedule change at the last minute. However the shoot was still well attended by 86 shooters. A credit to the popularity of this shoot. Again we could not have accomplished this without our sponsors.

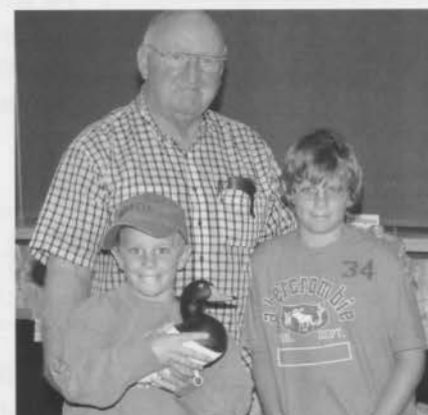
This year the Classic highlighted Delaware carvers Paul Loader (who provided 4 mallard drakes for first place) and Mike Veasey (who carved 4 Greenwing Teal for second).

The ducks were a big hit with the shooters, a big reason I'm sure for the success.

The Side by Side contest continues to grow in attendance and stature as was evidenced by Mr. Brian Buckman (pictured) who was one of a few who dressed for the occasion.

Pictured also are the Callahan boys who in a few more years will be participating in the shoot as well as collecting decoys. This year we added a second place prize to the vintage side by side shoot. Joey Jobes presented us with two wonderful prizes that were perfect for this event. They were two antique style decoys, a coot and a pair of "dead" canvasback decoys hanging from a board.

The Museum would like to thank A. R. Burdette, Sarah Ross LLC, and Control Systems Design, Inc., for their sponsorship of the Clay Shoot as well as Dick's Sporting Goods in Bel Air for their support by supplying discount packets for merchandise. Without assistance, our shoot would not be as successful as it is.



Junior winners Cole and Clark Callahan

Excerpt taken from his book *Creating the Preening Blue-Wing Teal*

Jeff Moore

2006 Duck Fair Honorary Chairman

*From student to teacher,
Jeff Moore uses his
passion for
the arts to inspire
future carvers.*

Jeffrey A. Moore was born in Wilmington, Delaware in 1966 and grew up in nearby Newark, Delaware. He has always had an interest in art and has developed his talent over the years through several mediums. Early on, Jeff won several competitions at the regional, state, and national levels for his work in charcoal.

Jeff began his carving career while working for William Veasey at the age of eighteen. He feels he learned as much about people and life as he did about carving and painting from his years at Veasey Studios. The wide array of artisans employed at the shop and the various backgrounds of the students provided a constant learning experience, including work with several Ducks Unlimited projects consisting of

Jeff Moore, continues on page 16)

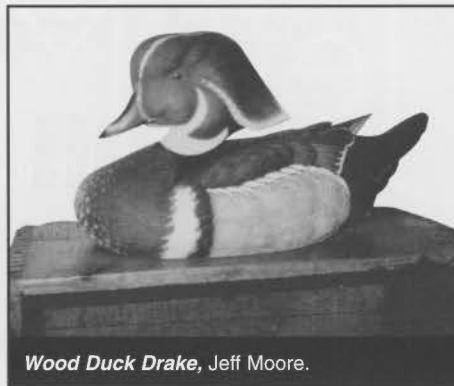
thousands of bird carvings. This led the way to more refined work on gallery pieces, new designs and eventually, participating competitively.

Jeff gained teaching experience by working with Bill in carving and painting seminars. Helping with weekly classes instructed by Debra Norvell and Paul Suarez also provided invaluable information. Teaching truly interested Jeff. Helping someone from start to finish, sparking their interest and seeing their confidence grow was truly rewarding and most satisfying.

Enjoying what one does can be contagious and classes soon grew in size and frequency. Jeff now teaches weekly classes. "All of our students are working on different projects at different levels, usually on more than one piece at a time," he says. "The variety and intensity of our classes is invigorating and still very enjoyable. I can't claim too many original ideas—most of what I do has been inspired from observing our students, listening to what they have asked for."

Jeff opened Fowl Play Studios in 1995. Located in Rising Sun, Maryland, it began as an endeavor to create gallery quality pieces for sale in shops nationwide, provide informative, up-to-date carving and painting instruction and create new tupelo machined blanks for the carving enthusiast.

Jeff began making his own original masters for duplicated birds after having been invited to the Eastern Waterfowl Festival. Students soon asked if they too could carve and texture these turned



Wood Duck Drake, Jeff Moore.

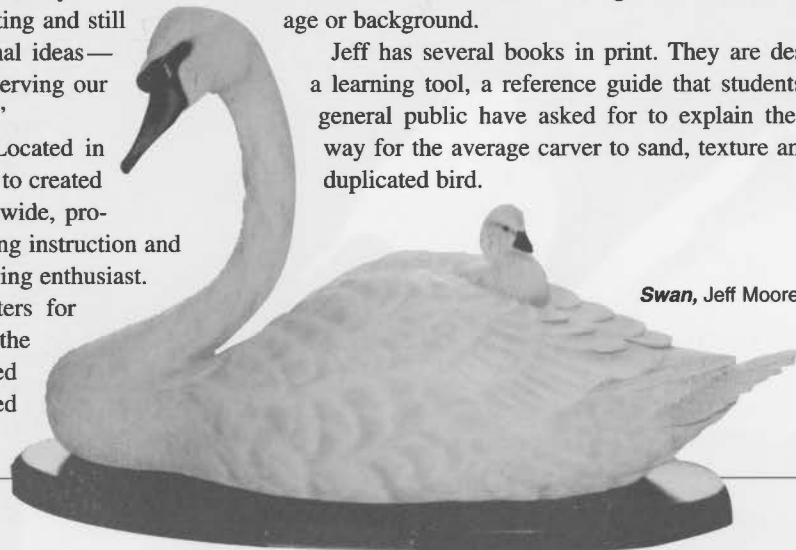
birds. New masters were created and blanks became popular, as this product provides a way to simplify the rough carving process. Craftwoods has displayed Moore's birds for the last several years in their catalog. Fowl Play Studios now carries over thirty-six popular patterns enjoyed by carvers all over the country.

Still many of the students have their own ideas and may be working on a competition piece that requires an original pattern and cut. This will always be a vital part of teaching and often leads to new or

improved master concepts.

Jeffrey runs on going classes year round in a casual, relaxed atmosphere and open to anyone who would like to attend. All are carving at different levels and on different projects. Jeff receives positive feedback using this format and has always said that anyone can learn from someone else, regardless of individual level, age or background.

Jeff has several books in print. They are designed as a learning tool, a reference guide that students and the general public have asked for to explain the simplest way for the average carver to sand, texture and paint a duplicated bird.



Swan, Jeff Moore.

Consignments Needed

Consignment items are needed for the Duck Fair Live Auction to be held on September 9th at 2pm. If you wish to place any items in the auction, please bring your items to the museum between 11am and 4pm by August 30th. All proceeds from the Auction benefit the museum.

Contact us if you have any questions regarding the auction.

Phone: (410) 939-3739 or Email: decoymuseum@yahoo.com



25th Annual Decoy Festival Auction Results

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

Lot #	Bid	Lot #	Bid	Lot #	Bid	Lot #	Bid
1	\$45.00	33	\$275.00	66	\$25.00	98A & B	\$150.00
2	\$45.00	34	\$270.00	67	\$230.00	99A & B	\$120.00
3	\$35.00	35A & B	\$300.00	68 A & B	\$90.00	100	\$40.00
4	\$30.00	36	\$65.00	69 A & B	\$200.00	101	\$35.00
5	\$160.00	37	\$30.00	70 A & B	\$45.00	102	\$40.00
6	\$135.00	38	\$25.00	71	\$180.00	103	\$160.00
7	\$50.00	39	\$20.00	72 A & B	\$1,450.00	104A & B	\$110.00
8	\$40.00	40	\$475.00	73a	\$230.00	105A & B	\$130.00
9	\$290.00	41	\$180.00	73b	\$400.00	106	\$350.00
10	\$110.00	42	\$150.00	74	\$170.00	107	\$200.00
11	\$115.00	43	\$90.00	75 A & B	\$360.00	108	\$130.00
12 A & B	\$320.00	44	\$140.00	76 A & B	\$150.00	109	\$170.00
13	\$360.00	45	\$120.00	77 A & B	\$250.00	Collection	\$600.00
14	\$225.00	46	\$90.00	78	\$120.00		\$325.00
15	\$100.00	47	\$90.00	79	\$250.00		\$225.00
16	\$25.00	48	\$80.00	80	\$50.00		\$700.00
17 A & B	\$45.00	49 A & B	\$100.00	81	\$140.00		\$475.00
18	\$25.00	50 A & B	\$80.00	82	\$120.00		\$90.00
19	\$200.00	51	\$55.00	83	\$375.00		\$45.00
20	\$110.00	52	\$90.00	84	\$325.00		\$55.00
21 A & B	\$80.00	53 A & B	\$70.00	85A & B	\$70.00		
22 A & B	\$260.00	54 A & B	\$110.00	86	\$55.00		
23 A & B	\$500.00	55 A & B	\$80.00	87	\$150.00		
24	\$110.00	56 A & B	\$70.00	88	\$70.00		
25 A & B	\$230.00	57 A & B	\$60.00	89A & B	\$90.00		
26	\$110.00	58 A & B	\$70.00	90A & B	\$130.00		
27	\$270.00	59	\$40.00	91	\$50.00		
28	\$65.00	60	\$50.00	92	\$40.00		
29	\$85.00	61	\$120.00	93	\$90.00		
29 add	\$1,550.00	62 A & B	\$70.00	94	\$40.00		
30 A & B	\$370.00	63	\$300.00	95	\$50.00		
31	\$100.00	64	\$45.00	96	\$30.00		
32A & B	\$230.00	65	\$45.00	97A & B	\$575.00		



THE MICHAEL family

Finis. The end. It's over now, the final days of Mould's Success, Homer's Fishery, Brick House Farm, the Michael estate.

It always reaches the finish like this, the stuff of a lifetime being sold to the highest bidder. Aimee O'Neill of the O'Neill Family Auction Company has been designated by the late Mrs. J. Smith Michael to sell all of the Michael estate personal property and real estate. There is such a large number of items to dispose of, the auction is held over a three-day period, June 16, 17, and 18, 2006.

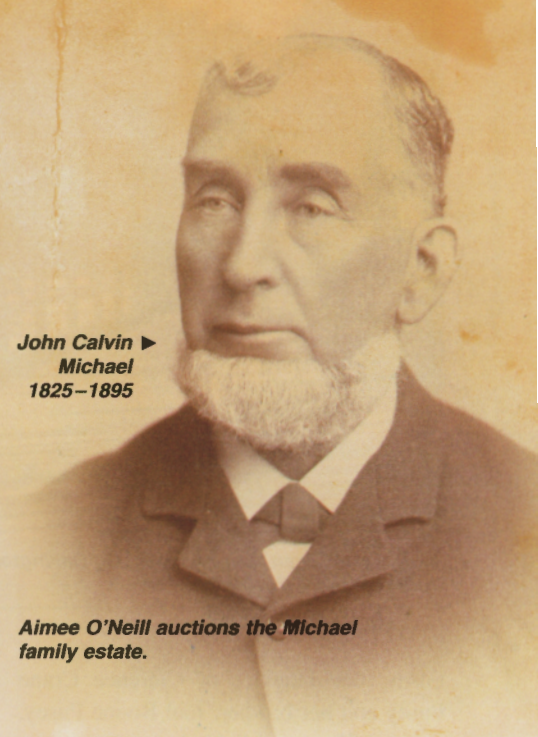
by C. John Sullivan





John Calvin Michael
1825-1895

◀ **Aimee O'Neill auctions the Michael family estate.**



John M. Michael purchased this property on April 22, 1893. It is situated on Swan Creek opposite Oakington. The Oakington estate fronts on the Chesapeake Bay to the East and Swan Creek to the West. The Michael brothers purchased Oakington in 1883 and John Michael's brother, William O. Michael, transferred his one-half interest to John in 1886. John Michael constructed a private bridge across Swan Creek to make the

two estates a contiguous parcel. Midpoint across the bridge, John M. Michael tied his scow, the "Lilly."

The roots of the Michael family go back to Baltsher Michael (probably Georg Balthasar Michel), who was born in Pflaz, Germany, and came to this country where he served in both the French and Indian War and the Revolution. He married Barbara Rissard in 1755, and then following her death, Ann Osborn in 1765.

Baltsher and Ann raised a son, Daniel, who was born in 1774. Daniel and his wife, Naomi Gilbert, gave birth to a son John Calvin Michael in 1825. John Calvin married Ann Martha Mitchell, and their son was named John Mitchell Michael (born in 1857). John Michael married Annie Florence Smith in 1883. The children resulting from that marriage were J. Smith Michael, and Florence Michael. J. Smith Michael married Hattie Beatrice



Blueprint showing Moulds Success and Horners Fishery



Bridge over Swan Creek connecting Oakington and Horner Point.
Both owned by the Michael Family.



◀ John M. Michael,
ca. 1857-1921

Pusey, the daughter of Clarence Crane Pusey and her brother, Joel Boone Pusey, married Florence Michael.

The Michael family settled in Aberdeen, Maryland, where they farmed. Their farming operation grew and developed into a substantial canning operation. John Calvin was canning corn by 1881 and that enterprise continued under his son, John M. Michael, and then his grandson, J. Smith Michael. In March of 1902 the Harford County assessor placed a value of \$150 on John Michael's canning machinery and \$200 on his sloop rigged scow "Lilly." The livestock used in the canning operation, 11 horses and 12 mules were valued at \$1,150. The canning operation increased its shoe peg corn production from 3,000 cases to 50,000 cases per year by 1918. The Michaels canned their product under an interesting variety of brand names: Homestead,

Jewel, My Oakington, Leopard, Grecian, Good as Gold, Better Than Gold, Black Cat, Orange and Gold, and Railbird. In addition to shoe peg corn, the Michaels packed and cured herring roe that they marketed as "seine caught." This was sold under the brand names of My Oakington Canned Herring Roe, Susquehanna Cut Herring Better Than Gold Brand, and Better Than Gold Canned Herring.

Although the Michaels of recent years had been collectors of many things, including decoys, the Michael men of earlier times were not collectors; they were



▼ Michael Canning House, ca. 1888

description; (this is not
property in Maryland, the tax-
or).

Actual property tax assessment document
displays the Sloop Rigged Scow "Lilly"
valued at \$200, ca. 1902.

(c) All interests, shares or proportions in all ships or other vessels, whether such ships or vessels be in or out of port.

(f) The fair average value of the stock of goods, etc., in the commercial business carried on by you or your firm during the past year.

NOTE 1. Under each of the above headings, (a) (b) etc., must be entered a list of all the property of the kind described in said heading, say, its full cash value, without looking to a forced sale.

NOTE 2. This Schedule, and the Schedule for Real Property, will be called for by one of the assessors, and each of them must be properly filled out and ready for the assessors within twenty days after the receipt thereof by the taxpayer. In case the assessor shall fail to call upon any person residing in this State and owning Personal Property therein liable to taxation, and furnish him with a Schedule, such person must appear before the assessor in his assessment district and fill up the Schedule and swear to the same.

NOTE 3. If any person owns or holds any property which he claims to be exempt from taxation, he must Schedule and return the same under the head of "Property claimed to be exempt."

NOTE 4. Schedules of Real or Personal Property owned by every partnership, corporation, trustee, administrator, guardian, committee of a lunatic, or every agent of any person residing or living in the county or city at the time the Schedule is required to be returned, and by every person having any manner of title, either legal or equitable (if the legal title is in a non resident of the State of Maryland), to or having possession of, or holding, or claiming in any manner, any interest in a non resident of the State of Maryland, or any one of them may make the oath required; the Schedules returned by corporations must be returned by the members of the partnership; the oath to be made to Schedules returned by corporations must be made by the members of the corporation.

sportsmen and hunters. The Havre de Grace Republican of November 17, 1914, reported that on the opening of the ducking season "Messrs. Smith Michael and Joel B. Pusey were high boat with 198 ducks to their credit, 8 of which were canvas backs and 24 redheads." As a matter of interest, Captain Jesse Poplar with the Dolan brothers was second high boat with 140 ducks. In addition, J. Smith Michael won shooting trophies from DuPont and his son, J. Calvin Michael, had excelled in the sport, winning the title of Maryland Singles Trapshooting champion in 1948, '49, '53, '55, '56, and '58. J. Smith's grandson, J. Smith Michael II, was Maryland Junior Champion in 1956, as was his brother, John M. Michael, in 1963. In 1937, another crack shot, D. Franklin Beck, had to outdo John

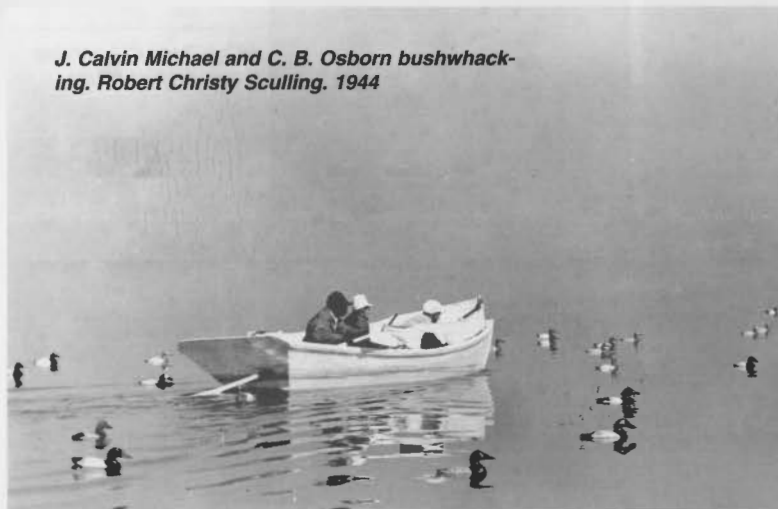
J. Calvin Michael, ca. 1937 ►



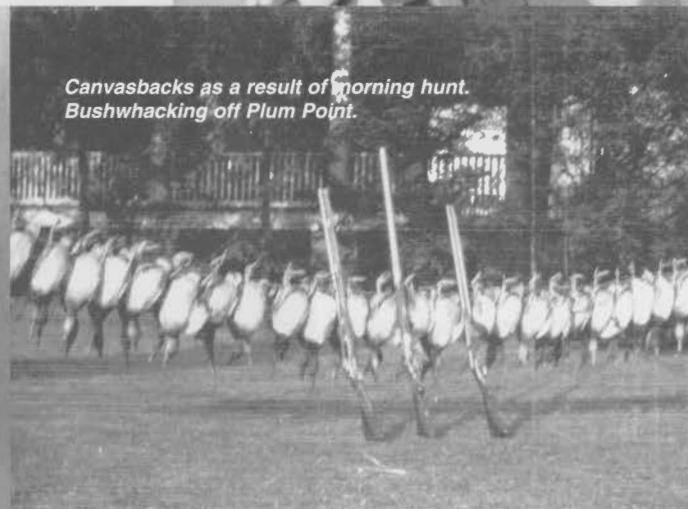
▼ *J. Smith Michael Home, ca. 1938*



J. Calvin Michael and C. B. Osborn bushwhacking. Robert Christy Sculling. 1944



Canvasbacks as a result of morning hunt. Bushwhacking off Plum Point.



Calvin Michael to retain his Maryland Singles Trapshooting championship title. That was Beck's fourth successive year. Beck defeated the same Michael in 1950 for that title. Understandably, when the ducks flew in range of Beck and Michael, there was little hope for them. When a trapshooter can break 200 targets in a row, the ducks best lay low. In a tiny note written in 1954 by J. Calvin Michael, he remarked that he and Beck had "killed 186 canvasback ducks bushwhacking in the West Ward between Swan Creek and the fishing battery in a heavy northwest wind and snow storm. All 186 ducks

killed was [sic] done from 9 AM to 3 PM with two Remington automatics and two model 12 pump guns. Automatics belong to Beck. River froze over that night. The ducks were working before the freeze which made good shooting."

So here I am at the auction of the Michael estate in the summer of 2006, prepared to give three days as a witness to history, as a witness to the end of an era. Spread out before me are a few decoys that had been left in the office of the late J. Smith Michael, a few guns, some box lots, a Dupont Trap Shooting Trophy awarded to Smith Michael in the 1920's. There are

some real good McGaw decoys, some McGaw miniatures, and an old Holly decoy branded "Reckless." It has been reheaded, but it is real, a good old decoy from the golden days on the Susquehanna Flats. There are a few pair of cast iron sink box decoys: two pairs are cans repainted by Mitchell, and one is a small pair of iron decoys repainted by Mitchell. They were painted as bluebills, but I know they are cast iron coot. I have not seen one since the Gabler auction in July 1980. The

The Michaels Family, *Continues on page 24*



Scouts and Schools Visit the Museums

By Margaret Jone

Late winter and early spring brought with it our busiest time for visitors. The Museum hosted a number of Boy Scout Cub Packs earning their "Whittlin Chip" cards and Shavings & Chips achievement. For those of you who do not know a Cub Scout, these are Bears (boys in 3rd grade). The "Whittlin Chip" program is a knife safety program where boys learn the proper care and handling of a pocket knife as well as the consequences for abusing the rules. They pass this class and have earned the right to use a pocket knife at Scout approved functions. The Shavings and Chips program is an achievement activity where they learn basic carving techniques and carve a bar of soap, in this case, a decoy head. By attending this program they also earned credit towards other achievements in community, art and history.

One group of Scouts who took this program last year returned in January and carved a wooden tie slide in the shape of a mallard or canvasback duck head. Many thanks to Len Burcham and John Ingoglia who taught these young men how to carve.

Several Girl Scouts participated in the same program. They earned a badge in art and completed several requirements for history and community badges. Several young ladies will

be working at the Museum over the next year assisting with programs and activities in order to complete requirements towards their Gold Awards, the Girls Scout equivalent to the Eagle Scout rank in Boy Scouts.

Many Harford County schools visited us this May. Kids as young as Pre-K to 6th grade learned about "What is a Decoy," the impact of market gunning on the environment, the impact of market gunning on the economy of Havre de Grace, the need for watershed protection and were treated to carving demonstrations provided by Jeanne Hiss, Len Burcham, and Noble Mentzer. Most of these tours were done in cooperation with the Maritime, Lighthouse, and Stepping Stone Museums. The students would move from one session to another between the various museums.



Cub Pack 810 carving neckerchief slides

Decoy painting session at Festival.



Museum Invited to Attend Waterfront Festival

The Museum was invited to attend the Baltimore County Community Waterfront Festival held on the grounds of the Martin State Airport. We had a traveling exhibit showcasing what we have to offer at the Museum, information on the exciting gallery renovations, programming and decoys. It was a great day and I had an opportunity to share our Museum with many people. The most commonly made statement made by visitors to our exhibit was "I have always seen the sign on 95

and wondered what it was, now I know and I will have to come in and see it now." Thanks to Museum member, Bob Bendler, for inviting us to become an exhibitor and who lent me decoys that he allowed people to handle and drop!

Keep a look out for some new programs that we will be doing along the Promenade in Havre de Grace this summer!



Chestertown Antique Mall Hosting Benefit for Museum

The Chestertown Antique Mall in Chestertown, Maryland will be hosting a lecture series on September 23, 2006 from 10am–4pm. Madelyn Mitchell Shank will be presenting a talk titled "Living with a Legend;" other speakers include artist Bill Reinbold, carvers Allan and Bill Schaubert and a special appearance by Charles "Speed" Joiner. The event is

being held at the Prince Theatre, 210 Main Street, Chestertown, Maryland. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. For more information on tickets, contact www.chestertownantiquemall.com, or email chestertownantiquemall@comcast.net. Enjoy a wonderful afternoon in Chestertown in the company of old and new friends.

Mark Your Calendar!

19th Annual Duck Fair
September 9th & 10th

For more information see page 34.

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attentive auction-goers diligently record prices realized in their illustrated color catalogs. Do they record these prices for future reference or as a souvenir of the Michael Estate? I've always wondered why this is done. Maybe this is how we live on among others; if we don't become the owners of a piece of the person's estate, we can someday look at the catalog and remember that we were there that day when the stuff was scattered into the lives of others. The second day of the sale, the auction-goers raise their hands for the late Mrs. Michael's jewelry, the silverware, and the dishes. Dealers bid against the old Harford County families that just want something that belonged to the Michaels. There is a large man's gold wedding band set with little diamonds; was this John M. Michael's or J. Smith Michael's or just an old piece of gold? Mrs. Michael was still buying at the O'Neill Family auctions within the last ten years of her life, so it is difficult to determine what was from the Michaels and what is new to the estate.

Just prior to the dispersal of the estate, the bequest of Mrs. J. Smith Michael was executed. A wonderful pair of decoys was donated to the Havre de Grace Decoy



TOP: Stationery from the Michael's Canning business.

MIDDLE: Corn Fork branded J.M.M. and J. Pusey. Holly Decoy branded J.S.M. walking stick. Monogrammed J.M.M. Bailing Scoop branded J.M.M.

BOTTOM: Five Canning Labels used by the Michael family.

Museum. These decoys had been a wedding present to J. Smith Michael's father and mother. John M. Michael and Annie Florence Smith were given the decorative canvasback decoys by Captain James T. Holly on their wedding day in 1883. James Holly was a friend of the Michaels and did business with the Michael and Pusey families. He carved decoys for the family's gunning rig and created the signs used on the private bridge over Swan Creek between Oakington and Brick House Farm. The Pusey family's decoy rig included several hundred decoys carved by the Hollys. There is always speculation of which Holly carved a special decoy or a decoy that somehow differs from what the decoy world knows and expects a Holly decoy to be. So when the Michaels' Holly decoys arrived at the Museum, among the "oooh's" and "ahhhh's" that were exclaimed, again the issue arose, could they be earlier than 1883, could they possibly have been a wedding gift to John M. Michael's parents, John Calvin Michael and Ann Martha Mitchell? Only the Hollys and the Michaels know. In 1883, Daddy Holly was 65 years old and James T. Holly was 28. I envision the younger Holly, being only 2 years younger than John Michael, as Michael's friend, and I can easily see this young man creating the best pair of decoys that he could carve for his friend as he worked alongside the senior Holly and listened to him giving guidance, advice, and suggestions, thus making the ultimate, "the wedding gift." The display of these decoys in Havre de Grace has already created quite the stir among collectors. Many will come now and continue to come to admire them. They will draw the novice collectors, the experienced aged collectors, and those merely curious about them. This single pair of decoys is now the true legacy to the City, the County, the State, and region. These decoys are "The Best," not just the best Hollys, not just the best decoys, but truly "The Best" that this region has to offer. These decoys transcend the decoy as art, folk art, and fine art; they are "The Best" example of why Havre de Grace is now without any doubt The Decoy Capital of the World.



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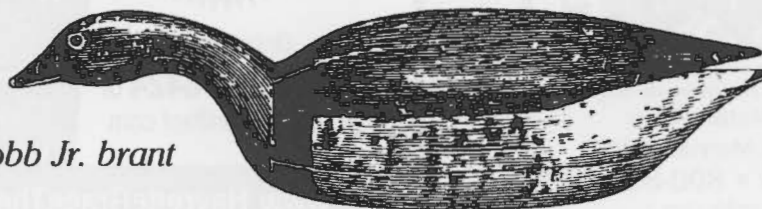
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Havre de Grace Decoy Museum ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2005 — DECEMBER 31, 2005

MISSION

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

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

GENERAL VISITATION 8,079

Adults	27%
Children 9-18	3%
Children 0-18	4%
Seniors	14%
Members	8%
Gift Shop Only	14%
Group Tours	12%
Other	10%

SPECIAL EVENTS 4,873

VISITATION/PARTICIPATION

Student Art Show51
Decoy, Wildlife Art &3859
Sportsman Festival	
Sporting Clays Shoot103
Duck Fair607
	(Estimated)
Anniversary Dinner100
Candlelight Tour & Carvers153
Celebration	

MEMBERSHIP 989

Member Residence:

Maryland635
Other Mid-Atlantic States190
Other U.S. States & Foreign Nations ..	.164

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ACCREDITATION

In November, 2000, the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum received the highest honor a Museum can receive—accreditation by the American Association of Museums. Accreditation certifies that a Museum operates according to standards set forth by the Museum profession, manages its collections responsibly, and provides quality service to the public. Beginning in 2005, the Museum began the process of self-evaluation leading to re-accreditation.

COLLECTIONS ACQUISITIONS

- ▶ Decorative Canvasback Pair by "Daddy" Holly circa 1800's given by the estate of Mrs. J. Smith Michael
- ▶ Diorama containing three dimensional Canada Geese painted by William Reinbold—a gift of Allen Fair
- ▶ Festival Honorary Chair decoys for exhibit by Jim Britton
- ▶ 41 factory decoys donated by Dr. Mort Kramer

- ▶ Canvas Pintail Pair donated by Gary Campbell
- ▶ Black Duck by R. Madison Mitchell donated by Mike Keating
- ▶ Back auction catalogs from Mike Keating
- ▶ Early maps of the Susquehanna River and Flats from the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust
- ▶ 40 Books from the Estate of Melvin Contad
- ▶ Items purchased through gifts from the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust and the East Coast Decoy Collectors
 - Pair Mason standard grade, glass eye Broadbills, mint condition
 - Feeding Wildfowler Mallard and Black Duck
 - Wildfowler Brant tip up
 - Wildfowler Canvasback Pair
 - Wildfowler Mallard, cork

- Wildfowler Pintail Drake
- Wildfowler Mallard Hen
- Herters Mallard Drake

EXHIBITS

- ▶ "The Decoys of Edson Gray"—18 decoys from the collection of Jim & Clo Trimble
- ▶ Speed Joiner "Sinkbox Display" from Dave Walker
- ▶ "Branded Decoys roundup"—20 decoys and artifacts from Potomac Decoy Collectors Association members
- ▶ Jim Britton, Decoy Honorary Decoy Festival Chair—18 examples of the carver's work loaned from the collection of Dr. Ken and Judy Margolis
- ▶ Exhibit of carvings by Duck Fair Honorary Chair, Jeanne Hiss
- ▶ J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest Winners
- ▶ Canada Geese Diorama—the Work of the Reinbolds

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

- ▶ "Far from home: Decoys from Afghanistan" on loan from Kevin Peel
- ▶ "Santa Claus and His Decoys" on loan from Madelyn Shanik

DOCENT-LED PROGRAMS

- ▶ 373 adults and seniors participated in group tours

- ▶ 636 school children participated free-of-charge in programs consisting of group tours, carving demonstrations, craft projects, and video presentations

SPECIAL EVENTS

- ▶ 24th Annual Decoy, Wildlife Art & Sportsman Festival—Honorary Chairman: Jim Britton

- ▶ 18th Annual Duck Fair—Honorary Chairman: John Clark
- ▶ Sporting Clays Classic
- ▶ 19th Annual Anniversary Dinner
- ▶ Candlelight Tour, Sale & Carver Celebration

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

TOTAL ASSETS \$1,168,562.88

Includes cash, investments, inventory, land and leasehold improvements, furniture and equipment, accumulated depreciation, and the value of the Museum collection.

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$1,168,562.88 AND CAPITAL

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$3,672.94

Includes accrued expenses, and sales tax payable.

TOTAL CAPITAL \$1,164,889.94

Includes unrestricted net assets, restricted net assets, and net income.

2005 REVENUES \$292,291.52

Decoy Festival	\$55,585.15
Gift Shop	\$35,256.64
Grants	\$39,000.00
General Admissions	\$20,812.60
Memberships	\$13,565.00
Other Events	\$25,279.60
Raffles	\$6,295.00
Corporate Sponsors	\$12,800.00
Private Donations	\$75,759.93
The Canvasback	\$4,308.00
Other Income	\$1,240.60
Educational Programs	\$2,389.00

2005 EXPENSES \$232,419.21

Administration	\$110,613.69
Gift Shop	\$24,288.05
Maintenance	\$36,341.28
Decoy Festival	\$24,700.62
Publications	\$12,255.32
Collections	\$909.66
Other Events	\$12,979.32
Educational Programming	\$9,649.30
Exhibits	\$681.97

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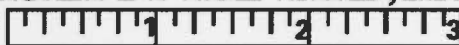
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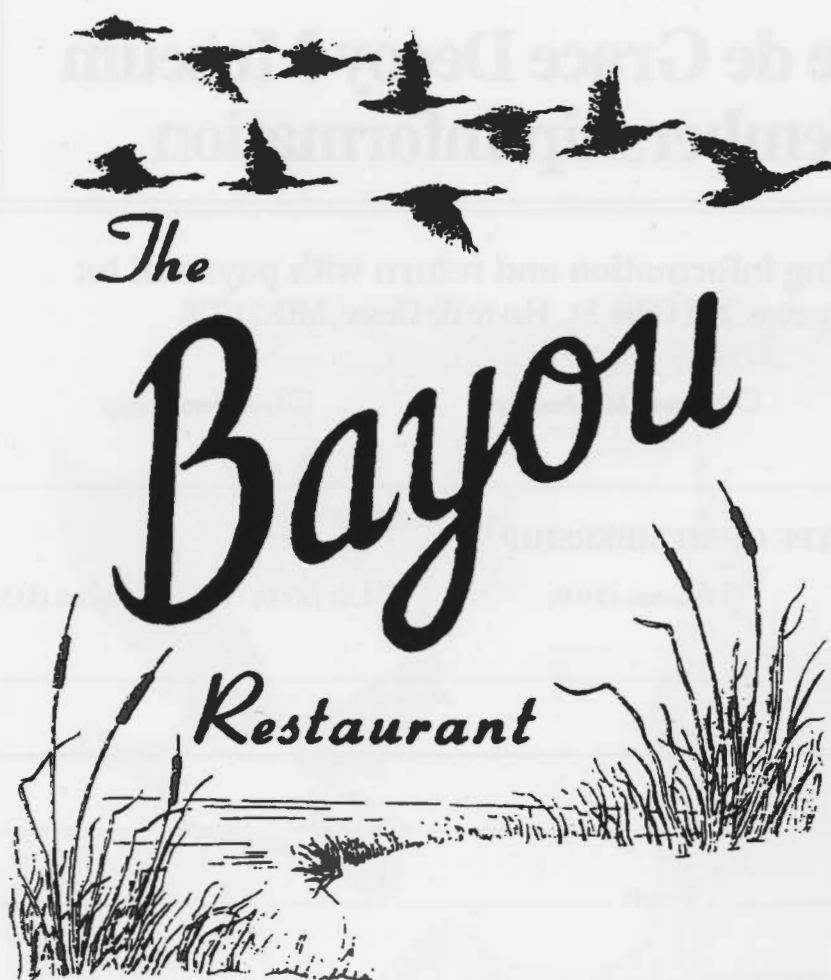
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The Ward Foundation Education Series

Call the Ward Foundation for a complete listing of this year's seminars, classes and workshops, programs and exhibits. Call Salisbury University Education Department at (410) 742-4988 ext 110 or visit their website at www.wardmuseum.org

The Decoy Museum's Exhibits

J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest Winners. Main floor exhibit area, June – September.

The Magnificent Michael Bequest, An extraordinary pair of "Daddy" Holly canvasbacks through 2006.

Tour Reservations

Book your tours early. Talk to your children's or grandchildren's teachers now about signing up for educational programs and tours of the Decoy Museum. Harford County school system classes are free and we have several different tours to offer different age or grade levels. Programs for scouts and home schooled children are also available.

AUGUST 12–13	SEPTEMBER 16
26th Annual Seafood Festival , Tydings Park, Havre de Grace. Saturday 11–7pm, Sunday 11–6pm. Call 410-939-1525 or seafood@aol.com for more information. Admission.	Guided Nature & Historical Walk of the North Park Trail . Meet at the Lock House Susquehanna Museum at 10am. Admission is free. Call 410-939-5780 or director@lockhousemuseum.org for more information.
AUGUST 12	SEPTEMBER 23
Back to the Future—Living History at the Lock House Susquehanna Museum . 1–5pm Living History demonstration. Admission is free. Contact 410-939-5780 or www.lockhousemuseum.org for more information.	Wooden Canoe Rendezvous at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum . 9–5pm, Show off your wooden canoe. Call 410-939-4800 or www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org for more information.
AUGUST 14	SEPTEMBER 23–24
Martha's Treasure Hunter—Skipjack Martha Lewis . 9–11am and 1–3pm. Call 410-939-4078 or info@skipjackmarthalewis.org for more information.	Fall Harvest Festival & craft show . Steppingstone Museum 461 Quaker Bottom Rd. 11–5pm call 410-939-2299 or steppingstonemuseum@msn.com for more information.
AUGUST 19–20	SEPTEMBER 30
43rd Annual Havre de Grace Art Show , open 10–5pm both days. Over 250 artists and crafters, live entertainment, children's activities and contests. Call 410-939-9342 or hdgartshow@hotmail.com for more information. Admission is free. Sponsored by Soroptimists International of Havre de Grace.	Harford Memorial 10th Annual 5K Celebration Run . Registration from 7:30–8:15am, race begins at 8:30am. A 5K Run and Awards Ceremony. Call 443-643-4202 for more information.
SEPTEMBER 8	OCTOBER 7
Phoenix Festival Theatre Musical . Harford Community College—Chesapeake Theatre; September 8 & 15; 8pm; September 10 & 16; 3 & 8pm. Call 410-836-4211 for more information.	Back to the Future Living History at the Lock House Susquehanna Museum . Living History demonstrations from 1–5pm. Admission is free, call 410-939-5780 or www.lockhousemuseum.org for more information.
SEPTEMBER 9	Darlington Apple Festival . An old fashion day in the country. 10am–5pm, call 410-457-4189 for more information. Admission is free.
Back to the Future—Living History at the Lock House Susquehanna Museum . Living History demonstrations from 1–5pm. Admission is free. Contact 410-939-5780 or www.lockhousemuseum.org for more information.	OCTOBER 13
Children's Art Festival at Tyding's Park from 10am–2pm. Arts, crafts and entertainment for children 3–10 yrs. Admission is \$3/child. Call 410-272-5516 for more information.	Lighthouse Cruise—Skipjack Martha Lewis . Noon–3pm, Sail to enjoy the water view of three local lighthouses. Call 410-939-4078 or info@skipjackmarthalewis.org for more information.
SEPTEMBER 9–10	OCTOBER 14
19th Annual Duck Fair . Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Over 40 wildlife artists and carvers displaying and selling their works. Children's activities, silent and live auction, and demonstrations. Saturday, September 9 from 10am–5pm and Sunday September 10 from 10am–4pm. Call 410-939-3739 or www.decoymuseum.com for more information.	Guided Nature & Historical Walk of the North Park Trail . Meet at 10am at the Lock House. Free to participants. Call 410-939-5780 or director@lockhousemuseum.org for more information.
SEPTEMBER 11	OCTOBER 17
Chesapeake Challenge/Brooke Gibson Memorial Golf Tournament at Bulle Rock to benefit Upper Chesapeake's Community Health Improvement programs and Harford Hospice. Call 443-643-3460 or dbt.01@ex.uchs.org for more information.	Lighthouse Cruise—Skipjack Martha Lewis . Noon–3pm, Sail to enjoy the water view of three local lighthouses. Call 410-939-4078 or info@skipjackmarthalewis.org for more information.
	OCTOBER 20
	Havre de Grace Chamber of Commerce Bull & Oyster Roast , Hutchins Park; raw bar, pit beef, ham, turkey and more. 7pm–11pm call 410-939-3303 or hdegchamber1@comcast.net for more information.

About the EVANS McKINNEY OLD DECOY CONTEST

The 4th annual J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest held in conjunction with the 2006 Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival attracted 81 entries from 26 contestants that included 105 birds, some entered as matched pairs. The competition was chaired by Jim Trimble who worked with his wife Clo accepting and logging in competition decoys. Joe Engers, along with a panel of independent judges that included Chad Tragakis, Bill Cordrey and Bruce Baynard, judged the 81 entries. Tragakis, Griff Evans and Rob Knight worked as decoy handlers for drop-off and pick-up. Category winners were awarded their ribbons with the competition stage area then opened for the crowd to view. They were: **Best Upper Bay Teal or Ruddy Decoy:** John Wesley Williams op diminutive teal—*Mort Kramer*; **Best John Graham Decoy:** John Graham op hollow black duck—*John Sullivan*, **Best Holly Family Decoy:** Jim Holly op black duck—*Griff Evans*, **Best Charles Bryan Decoy** (old decoy age requirement waived): Charles Bryan early op widgeon pair—*Allan Bryan*, **Best Susquehanna "Up River" Decoy:** Joseph Walters op canvasback pair—*Jim Trimble*, **Best Delaware River/Blair or Blair School Decoy:** John Blair diminutive op swimming widgeon—*John Collier*. Collier's decoy was also judged "Best in Show." **Best Mid Bay/Eastern Shore Bluebill:** Ed Phillips op bluebill—*Griff Evans*, **Best Virginia or North Carolina Diving Duck:** Ira Hudson op scratch painted hooded merganser—*Henry Stansbury*, **Best Non-Factory Shorebird:** op Cobb Island curlew—*Henry Stansbury*, **Best Unknown:** Cleveland canvasback in fine old paint—*Lou Nolan*. The winning birds are now on display at the Museum.

~Jim Trimble

See page 35 for Contest Winners

19th Annual Duck Fair

September 9th & 10th

Come and join us at the 19th Annual Duck Fair. This year's Honorary Chair is Mr. Jeffrey Moore. We have a fun filled event planned. Take a look at what will be taking place and mark your calendars now!

All weekend enjoy...

Bird Mask Making: Create a unique bird mask to take home with you.

Children's Activities: Children of all ages are invited to participate in the ongoing activities. Activities include: Bird Mask making, face painting, duck pond game, bean bag game, & duck races.

Children's crafts: Make a duck photo frame or duck tote bag. \$1.00 cost for each project to cover materials.

Ugly Duck Contest: Enter your original ugly duck from 9am–11am. Entry must be made by you and identifiable as a duck. Winner is chosen by popular vote and is announced at 4pm. One prize per person.

Retriever Demonstrations: Vicky Trainor & friends from Oakdale Retrievers of Church Hill, MD will demonstrate techniques & skills of both the dogs & their trainers. Everyone will enjoy these demos! 1pm & 3pm.

On Saturday enjoy the...

Live Auction: Join us under the big tent for a live auction. Bidder registration is from 11am–1:50pm. Auction begins at 2pm.

On Sunday come and enjoy the...

"Wings & Things:" Come visit live birds and learn how to care for wildlife. This program is presented by DNR, MD Forest & Park Service.

Decoy Painting: Decoy lovers of all ages! Join in the spirit of the Duck Fair by painting a miniature decoy to take home. Just \$5.00 for materials.

Schedule subject to change. Please call to confirm activity time.

~ 4TH ANNUAL ~

J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest Winners

AN ANNUAL FEATURE OF THE HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY FESTIVAL

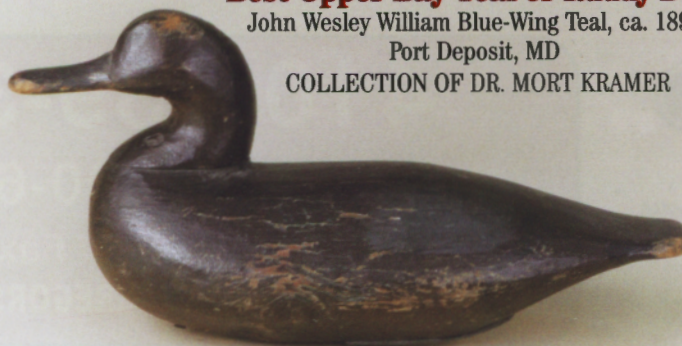
Judges: Bob Biddle, Will Freng and Larry Laramy

Best Upper Bay Teal or Ruddy Duck

John Wesley William Blue-Wing Teal, ca. 1890

Port Deposit, MD

COLLECTION OF DR. MORT KRAMER



Best John Graham Decoy

John Graham Hollow Black Duck, ca. 1880,
Charlestown, MD

COLLECTION OF JOHN SULLIVAN



Best Holly Family Decoy

Jim Holly Scratch-Painted Black Duck, ca. 1900
Havre de Grace, MD

Original Paint

COLLECTION OF GRIFF AND DEBBIE EVANS



Best Charles Bryan Decoy

Charlie Bryan Early Widgeon Pair, Middle River, MD

Original Paint

COLLECTION OF ALLAN BRYAN



Best Susquehanna "Up-River" Decoy

Joseph Walters Canvasback Pair.

Original Paint

COLLECTION OF JIM TRIMBLE



Best Delaware River/Blair or Blair School Decoy

John Blair Sr. Swimming Widgeon Drake, ca. 1900

Philadelphia, PA/Elkton, MD

COLLECTION OF JOHN COLLIER



Best Mid-Bay/Eastern Shore Bluebill

Ed Phillips Bluebill Drake, ca. 1930

Cambridge, MD

Original Paint

COLLECTION OF GRIFF & DEBBIE EVANS



Best Virginia or NC Diving Duck

Ira Hudson Hooded Merganser Hen, ca. 1920
Chincoteague, VA

Original Paint

COLLECTION OF HENRY STANSBURY



Best Non-Factory Shorebird

Unknown Cobb Island Curlew, ca. 1880

Original Paint

COLLECTION OF HENRY STANSBURY



Best Unknown

"Cleveland" Canvasback, unknown maker, ca. 1880.

*Reportedly hunted over by President
Grover Cleveland.*

COLLECTION OF LOU NOLAN



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