

Standard Mail PAID Permit No. 73 Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

Fall Raffle 2008

TICKETS \$5 each — 6 for \$25—10 for \$40





10 Chances to win a Charles Bryan Decoy or Print signed by Charlie.

Drawing will be held 8pm December 14, 2008 at the Decoy Museum.

For tickets call 410-939-3739

1st Prize Highhead drake & sleeper hen

2nd Prize Pair of Canvasback Decoys

3RD PRIZE Pair of Blue Bill Decoys

4TH PRIZE Canada Goose V-board 1975

5TH PRIZE Pair of Cast SInkbox Canvasbacks 1994

6TH PRIZE Pair of Cast Canvasback Bookends signed

7**TH PRIZE** Snow Goose & Canada Goose Silhouettes signed

6th

8TH PRIZE Print of R.M. Mitchell, Paul Gibson & Charlie Bryan

9TH PRIZE Paul Shertz Print of Charlie Bryan Widgeons signed by Paul & Charlie

10TH PRIZEPhotograph by Russ Hudsonof Charlie Bryan (signed)



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



Left: George Wooden, President of the Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl receiving award from John Ingoglia, Duck Fair Chairman

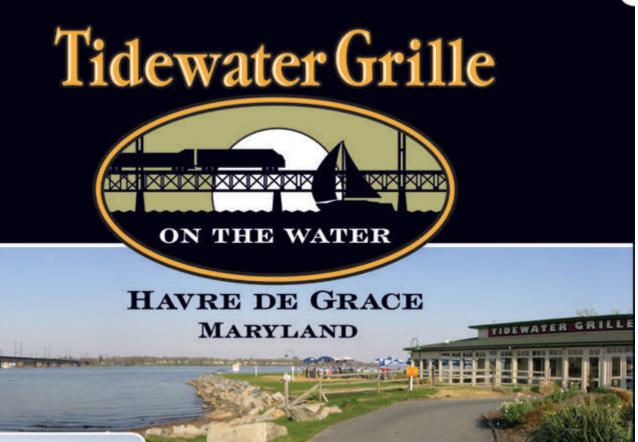
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From the President

Dear Museum Member,

This past May our Golf Tournament was rained out and a rain date was set for September 5, 2008. Well folks, it almost happened again, but we were able to sneak it in before Saturday rains started. Our very first tournament turned out to be quite successful. I want to give a very special thank you to Jerry Whited (United Progressive Builders) and Mike Watts (Bel Air Construction) for all their help.



Over the past several years we have battled the weeds behind the Decoy Museum. They seemed to thrive on any sprays we used on them. Pat Vincenti and a large group of volunteers from the Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl cleaned up the area. Not only did they fight the weeds, but a very angry group of bees as well. Many bee stings later the weeds were gone, mulch was spread and a new split rail fence was installed. Merle Dougherty (Chesapeake Rent All) loaned us a truck to get equipment to the Museum to do the work.

On your next trip to the Decoy Museum be sure to check out the new display case on the 2nd floor. Dave Walker donated the case to the Museum. Again Pat

Vincenti and the Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl got together to go to Dave Walker's and take the display apart, load it into a truck and haul it to the Museum. There it was re-assembled and now houses Factory Decoys donated to the Museum by Dr. Mort Kramer. Captain Bill Collins assisted Pat Vincenti in locating and leveling the display case.

The Decoy Museum has had an association with the Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl for some time. Whenever we let them know of our need for volunteers, they are always there with the needed help. The Decoy Museum is very fortunate to have Delta Waterfowl's support and friendship.

Please visit the Decoy Museum soon and bring a friend or neighbor.

Sincerely,

dan

Ed Watts

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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And the Winners Are

BY MARGARET JONES PHOTOS BY MARGARET JONES

Our 1st Golf Tournament took place September 5th at Ruggles Golf Course located on the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. It was a picture perfect day, I was told "a golfer's sort of day."

The tournament had a "scattered" start and in addition to the winning team there were several side competitions such as, two Long Drives and two Closest to the Pin. The fun continued with door prizes and a 50/50 raffle along with the ever popular Mulligan.

The winner of the Team Competition was the team lead by Rob Mitchell, III, which included Pastor Tom Hodges, Kevin Vickery, and John Wanger. The team scored -8 par. They received a wooden club that had a duck head carved on it made by Charles Jobes.

The Hard Luck Team was team Top Roofing, coming in at -1 par. Team

Top Roofing included; Thomas L. Cox, Randall Floyd, Corey R. McFarland, and Mike Miloche.

Long Drive winners were Don Colburn on hole #16 and Arthur Coakley on hole #9. Both golfers were on team United Progressive Builders.

Closest to the Pin winner was Jerry Whited from team United Progressive Builders who won both hole #3 and #15.

Every player received an insulated lunch bag supplied by Bel Air Construction and filled with Museum pens, pencils, passes and an Iron Bird cup.

Special thanks go to Bel Air Construction and to Charles Jobes for their contributions towards the prizes and gift bags to golfers. It was a remarkable, as well as, an enjoyable day on the golf course.



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Ed Watts

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Havre de Grace Lions Club

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Top Roofing

United Progressive Builders Inc.

Vincenti Decoys

rth

Miller's ISLAND

An Introduction to C. John Sullivan's Next Book

> General Magruder in his boat after taking up the decoy rig off Miller's.

Gurney J. Godfrey, gun in hand, with a drake pintail on Miller's in 1952.

Books and libraries have always held a special place in my heart. My mother was responsible for bringing a branch of the Harford County library to the general store in Fallston. The main branch of that library was housed on Main Street in Bel Air in an historic church building. With the exception of having the pews and altar removed the building was still very much a church.

ts great stone walls and high ceilings along with wonderful dark old bookshelves filled with thousands of books made patrons instantly display reverence to this place. I would wander among those maze-like shelves searching for something to entice me to read over my summer vacations from school. I can still vividly recall the smell and feel of that, my very first library. In my family's home in Fallston my father had constructed book shelves that were in place on either side of the living room fireplace thus creating our own family library. As a youngster there were certain volumes on those shelves that were a constant source of my attention. There was the Guadalcanal Diary by Richard Tregaskis with an image on

Three waterfowlers outside the clubhouse—their shotguns rest against the house.



the dust jacket of the Marines climbing out of their landing craft into the water. There was a volume entitled: 20 Hrs. 40 Min. by Amelia Earhart, a book of cartoons, Bringing Up Father by George McManus, given to my mother in 1920 and then my favorite, Modern American Painting. I developed a keen interest in art at an early age all as a result of one of the illustrations in that book. In that large colorful volume there were brilliantly executed prints of great paintings by American artists, but how I found my favorite remains a mystery to me. Buried in that thick tome was a copy of a wonderful work of art by Thomas Hart Benton, it is entitled "Persephone." Benton painted a gorgeous brunette reclining beside a stream. My first true love was that young raven-haired beauty. She is surrounded by lush greenery with fertile fields being harvested in the distance. Alongside her an elderly farmer peers around a tree at her voluptuous unclad body. I spent many a pleasant moment reviewing that great art. I recently revisited that page and discovered a slight tear in the facing page from excessive wear I fear. How thankful I am to this day that my mother never noticed that awful tear.

On a shelf above that art book rested a small thin book with the interesting title of There Are No Dull Dark Days. I came across that fascinating volume one day quite by accident as I returned that well-worn volume of artwork to its proper place. I believe in all honesty that I was first drawn to this book primarily because of its compact size, the peaceful bucolic scene on the dust jacket and the close proximity to that art book. The author, Percy Thayer Blogg, was a sportsman's sportsman in the truest sense of the word. The images and stories he tells draw me back even to this day. He wrote of fishing excursions, birding adventures and gunning experiences. He related hearing the drumming of the ruffed grouse in Laurel Brook adjacent to the Little Gunpowder River which forms the boundary between Baltimore and Harford County in this locale. Laurel Brook and the surrounding hills and valleys were part of my domain

Inside the Miller's Island clubhouse. The gunners sit at the dining room table with their bunk beds visible in the background.

as a young boy and as an adult. Aside from my family's annual trips to Ocean City my first experiences in the water were in the Gunpowder River at Laurel Brook. The Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad ran across a high trestle there. It was the same trestle that my paternal grandfather had helped construct. There had been a tiny railroad station next to the woods there. It was destroyed by vandals years before I even knew that word. I hiked the hills and valleys with my father, my aunt, my sister and my childhood friends. We built cooking fires in stone circles. We pulled the stones from the riverbanks and placed them in circles on the sandy shores. We chilled our bottles of 7-UP in the river after tying strings around their necks and anchoring them to the shore with round rocks. My friends and I hiked along the Ma and Pa tracks; later in life we rode horseback and motorcycles after the railroad was gone.

I would go back to that little book by Blogg many times throughout my youth. I could relate to my days at Laurel Brook and fantasize about the other places and times that Blogg wrote about. But of all of his experiences, there was one that held the most fascination for me and that was the days spent at Miller's Island. Blogg described the gunning on that island and the use of huge 4-bore shotguns. He included a picture of the old clubhouse. Oh how I dreamed of what treasures were tucked away in that great place. The photograph shows, lined up neatly in a row in front of the house, a group of 9 ancient

Gurney J. Godfrey holding a pair of canvasbacks.

Warren A. E. Magruder and Gurney Godfrey off of Miller's after placing their decoy rig.

swan decoys, the most that I had ever seen in one place. Where did they go? Did they survive the demise of that clubhouse and ultimately the island itself? How many genuine swan decoys from that era are left? The image of those decoys and that early Maryland house is etched into my memory and stays with me until this day. Like so many things in my life, the collecting of books is one of my passions. It was never enough to have simply a single copy of that great little tome on my shelf; I needed to have multiple copies. Several are autographed by the author and one came with a personalized Christmas card from Blogg. I have purchased them at every opportunity and dream that maybe someday something that I have written will be that sought after. A few of my collector friends would bring me a copy on occasion and then one day in the mid-1970's my dear friend Bob Hockaday appeared at my door with Percy Thayer Blogg's personal sporting photo album. It was a true treasure trove of great early Maryland sporting images. There were sailing, swimming, fishing, motoring, and shooting pictures; and then, there they were, ensconced midway in that wellpreserved album were photographs from Miller's Island. I thought my Miller's Island collection was near complete, but of course I have continued my search for those magnificent swan decoys and any record I could find of the days of gunning at Miller's Island.

Miller's Island-where is it, what is it now and what was it in years gone by? Over the years, when I have mentioned a gunning shore, a ducking club, this island to associates in the decoy world, I have been asked those questions. Of the many ducking clubs I have written about, there is but one that simply disappeared. Most all of the Upper Bay gunning clubs are gone, their land taken by the federal government by presidential proclamation for the United States military installations of the Edgewood Arsenal and the Aberdeen Proving Ground. Others were developed into residential waterfront subdivisions. some into commercial marinas, and one has been operated as a nursery by the same family since its days as a gunning club and is permanently preserved from further development.



After a day's snipe shooting on Miller's Island circa 1915. This image is from Percy Thayer Blogg's personal photo album.

But the fate of Miller's Island was very different-a perfect example of the power of Mother Nature. In 1944, Percy Thayer Blogg wrote in his book, There Are No Dull Dark Days, that: "Time has tamed much of its wilderness, the bay crept toward the old club house, washed onto the porch and finally pounded on the front door. Piece by piece it broke down and was carried away. A thousand memories of the past are tied to the present only by a few old timers and the clubhouse foundation which lies awash by the bay." Miller's Island, which was once two separate islands located at the mouth of Back River and connected to the mainland by a bridge, simply eroded into near extinction. Today it is being regenerated and enlarged as one island with dredge spoils from the Baltimore Harbor. Part of the island is a recreational area for Baltimore area boaters.

In between its days as a ducking club and its near extinction at the hands of Mother Nature, the two islands, one eventually referred to as Hart Island and one as Miller's Island were owned by various entities, some with the obvious intent on developing them, i.e., the Bayside Beach Corporation, and the Pleasure Island Amusement and Development Company and others, local industries, the Bethlehem Steel Corporation and C.J. Langenfelder & Son, Inc., apparently for the use of their executives for sport. In 1978, a deed and deed of surrender from the latter corporation transferred the islands to the State of Maryland.

Time has also taken its toil on the old timers that remember that other time as well. Mrs. Frank Beck, known as Mae, my most senior friend (she was 101 on her last birthday), is the only person I know who gunned on Miller's while the clubhouse still stood. She shot her very first duck there; a canvasback, she told me during a recent visit. Mae frequently engaged in the sport of duck hunting. Maryland game records for the period from November 16, 1933 to January 15, 1934 record Mrs. Frances A. Beck of Havre de Grace as the shooter of 4 wild ducks during that period. In a recent interview of Retired Major General Warren A. E. Magruder. He related to me that he and the late Maryland conservationist Gurnery J. Godfrey gunned from a booby blind on Miller's Island. They shot canvasbacks, pintails and blackheads on their trips to the island from 1949 to 1952. Another not so old timer, former State Senator C.A. Porter Hopkins, shot bluebills on Miller's Island in 1956, '57 and '58. He related to me that "not only were the buildings gone, the island itself was wild like an eroding jungle" when he shot there from a booby blind. They borrowed a boat from his friend, Auggie Zedera, at the end of Miller's Island Road and crossed to the island. He and his gunning partner each shot 10 blackheads that day.

Since I have completed my recent book on Carroll's Island, once again I have turned my focus to Miller's Island. ■

Honorary Chariman Paul Butcher receiving plaque from event Chairman John Ingoglia.

Duck Fair Review

Someone once said that **"the second time is the charmer"** and they were right! by Margaret Jones

The Duck Fair had to be postponed due to the arrival of Tropical Storm Hannah on September 6th. It was rescheduled for October 5th and it was a gorgeous day!

It was a bright, clear, sunny fall day. The kind of day that October is all about.

Despite the date change, a large number of our original exhibitors managed to make it.

People began arriving early and were signing up for the Duck & Goose calling contest that was sponsored by Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl. The calling contest has been absent from the Duck Fair for a number of years and it came back in a big way. Special thanks to Jeff Coates, George Wooden and the other members of Delta Waterfowl for organizing and handling the event.

The silent auction, bake sale and children's activities were well attended. This year the children's activities kept to the fall theme and we painted pumpkins. Over 35 children and a few adults enjoyed picking out a pumpkin and painting scary faces or Halloween themed pictures on them. A new item in the silent auction was a cookie of the month certificate for 6 months. Our very own finance officer and

> "baker extraordinaire" Mindy Elledge offered a cookie of the month for 6 months. The successful bidder was able to go home with October's offer-

 Junior competitors for duck & goose calling competition

ing of oatmeal walnut raisin cookies. The next several deliveries will be seasonally appropriate goodies. Many people are now looking forward to seeing it appear in next year's auction!

Debbie Butcher, wife of this year's Duck Fair Honorary Chairman Paul Butcher, supervised this year's decoy painting with seven children and one adult painting resin mallards. A lot of laughing and carrying on could be heard from their direction. The finished projects were well done. Thanks Debbie!

The day included the live auction. Lots included a Charles Bryan Bluebill, a pair of Green Wing Teals by Charlie Joiner and a "Titbird" Bauer Canvasback drake. The crowd for the auction was smaller than usual, but not bad for a Sunday afternoon. Take a look at the auction results to see what you missed!

The second time around was definitely

a charmer. Thank you to all the volunteers who made the day a success. I would like to recognize John Ingoglia, the Duck Fair Chairman, for his help. ■



Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

21st Annual Duck Fair Auction Results

LOT #	SALE PRICE	DESCRIPTION	LOT #	SALE PRICE	DESCRIPTION
1	\$50.00	Decoy by Jim Pierce, branded	22a&b	\$80.00	Bluebill Pair by Bryon Bodt, s&d 1989
2	\$30.00	Framed Print, Cavasbacks by Richardson	23a&b	\$70.00	Redhead pair by Bryon Bodt, s&d 1988
3	\$65.00	Flying Teals with wood base, John & Steve Day	24	\$95.00	Standing Canada Goose by Charles Jobes s&d 1987
4	\$70.00	Canvasback Drake by John & Steve Day s&d	25	\$30.00	Framed Print by Ned Ewell
5	\$35.00	Framed Print of Ward Bros by Harryman	26	\$30.00	Shotgun loader, used by Charles Bryan
6	\$200.00	Bluebill by Charles Bryan, c 1950 signed	27	\$5.00	Cork Snow Goose
7	\$100.00	Canvasback Drake by	28	\$50.00	Redhead Drake by Charlie Pierce, s&d
		Titbird Bauer s&d 1989	29	\$45.00	Canvasback Drake by Bob Biddle
8 a&b	\$60.00	Green Wing Teal Pair by Steiner Pierce signed	30	\$25.00	Ruddy Duck Drake by Joey Jobes, s&d
9	\$50.00	Camo Duck by Paul Butcher, s & d	31	\$55.00	Canvasback Drake by
10	\$50.00	1/4 Size Swan by Paul Butcher, Bryan body	32	\$20.00	Mali Vujanic, s&d 2 baskets of wooden heads
11	\$30.00	Framed Print "Double on a Black Duck" by Raedeke			and patterns
12 a&b	\$100.00	Woodduck Pair by Capt Ed Darwin,	33	\$55.00	Old Squaw Drake w/weight by Jim Pierce, s&d, copper plate
13 a&b	\$65.00	s&d, branded Canvasback Pair by Capt Ed Darwin,	34a&b	\$45.00	Half size Bufflehead Pr by Art Boxleitner
15 800	\$05.00	signed, branded	35	\$10.00	Mallard Drake, unknown
14	\$45.00	Canvas Goose by Frank Muller, s&d, branded	36	\$45.00	Pintail Drake by Steve Lay, s&d 1984
15	\$55.00	Canvas Swan by Frank Muller, s&d, branded	37a&b	\$900.00	Green Wing Teal Pair by Charlie Joiner
16	\$35.00	Framed Print, Mallards by Louis Frisino, signed	38a&b	\$35.00	Bufflehead Pair by Bobby Jobes
17	\$20.00	Resin Sculpture by Art LaMay	39a&b	\$30.00	Redhead Pair by Bobby Jobes
		for Danbury Mint	40a&b	\$40.00	Antique Canvasback Pair by Bobby Jobes
18 a&b	\$175.00	Mallard Pair by Jim Pierce, signed	41a&b	\$35.00	Coot Pair by Bobby Jobes
19	\$35.00	1/4 size Swan by Bob Jobes, s&d	42	\$15.00	Miniatuare Bluebill Drake
20	\$65.00 \$45.00	Flying Canvasback Drake Sculpture			by Kenny Hayman, s&d
21	\$45.00	Miniature Green Wing Teal Hen by David Carroll	43	\$15.00	1/2 Size Mallard Hen by Bill Faix, branded

Remembering Billfaver

BY CHAD TRAGAKIS

We lost one of the last of the old time Perryville duck hunters and decoy makers with the passing of Bill Weaver on September 5, 2008. He was 89 years old. During World War I, Bill's father, a Pennsylvania Railroad engineer, settled his family in Perryville, where the PRR maintained a regional hub. William Ernest Weaver was born there on August 21, 1919 and spent nearly his entire life in the bustling waterfront community.

In his youth, Bill was known locally as "Reds," owing to his bright shock of red hair. His first job after high school was working for aviation pioneer and manufacturer Glenn L. Martin, where he earned 40-cents an hour. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and upon returning home, opened a hardware store that also sold guns and hunting equipment. He became part of Perryville's modern history when, in 1947, he began selling television sets. Over the next ten years, he and his partner sold most of the TVs that Perryville residents owned, helping to bring a new eye on the world to the people of his small town. He sold the store in 1985, giving him more time for hunting, fishing, making decoys, and his many other recreational pursuits.

Bill's first foray into hunting was gunning for upland birds, rabbits and other small game with his father in the 1920s. Around this same time, to earn extra income, each ducking season his family rented out an extra room



to visiting "sports" from Baltimore, Wilmington and Philadelphia. Bill was awestruck by the fine shooting clothes, beautiful shotguns, and latest equipment these men always seem to have, and even as a youngster, he vowed then and there to join them out on the Flats. Donaldson Cole, a legendary Perryville gunner and family friend of the Weavers, introduced Bill to duck hunting. Bill admitted sheepishly that this was probably before he was really old enough to go.

Growing up, Bill was like a surrogate son to many of the old duck hunters and decoy makers that worked and lived near the shoreline, and he was influenced by them personally and professionally. These included George Burch and the locally famous pair of Asa Owens and Henry Davis. Bill was a frequent visitor to "Ace" and Hen's waterfront shanty, and his first decoys were made on their pattern. Years later, he put together a fine collection of old Upper Bay decoys, and one of the favorites in his collection was a drake can from Ace and Hen's last rig.

Bill's first decoys were, by his own admission, very crude-a small rig he fashioned in the mid-1930s. Despite their appearance, they proved to be very successful so he decided to put more effort into his next attempt. Inspired by Ace and Hen's pattern and with the additional influence of William Heverin's birds, Bill made a rig of hand-chopped, Cecil County style canvasbacks in 1939. He supplemented these birds by driving over to Havre de Grace where he had Madison Mitchell turn out bodies, which he then spokeshaved, sanded, attached his own handcarved heads to, and painted. In the 1950s and '60s, he hunted actively, but didn't make many decoys. That all changed in 1970, when he attended the Chestertown Decoy Show and was impressed with the decorative carvings he saw there. In 1972, he took a class taught by Bill Veasey and by 1974, he was carving decorative decoys in earnest. By 1977, his carving had come

so far, that he was persuaded to begin teaching classes of his own. Over the years, he shared his talents with more than 800 students — a wonderful legacy for a wonderful and talented man. In addition to decoy making and duck hunting, Bill's other interests included photography, boat building, and fishing. For years, he also held a commercial fishing license.

When I began to study and write about Perryville's waterfowling history, I couldn't have asked for a better source or a better "tour guide" than Bill. The stories and firsthand experiences that Bill shared, together with those of his best friend and brother-in-law, Melvin "Moke" Boyd, also a notable Perryville hunter and decoy maker, transported me back in time and gave me a real understanding of and appreciation for that unique time and place in American history. He related the typical pursuits of an adventurous Perryville boy growing up on the water in a long ago era-fishing off the wharf for hours, skinning catfish, laying railroad ties for the PRR, skating on the Bay in winter and swimming from Perryville over to Havre de Grace in the summer. There was a gleam in his eye when he talked about the mischief he and his pals would get into over in Havre de Grace. But the stories that kept me captivated were Bill's vivid recollections of duck hunting. From tales of bushwhacking, to confessions of night gunning, to firsthand accounts of all the river shore regulars—the decoys they made, the guns they used, and their amazing abilities out on the water—I felt as though I were right there with him.

We are indeed fortunate to live in this day and age—of high technology, modern medicine, comfort and convenience. But thinking back on the wonderful life Bill led in a simpler time, if given the chance, there are many of us who would think hard about trading places with him. Godspeed Bill. Wherever you are, I hope the shooting is good, the water is warm, and you aren't getting into too much mischief!



THANK YOU FROM THE DUCK FAIR

The staff of the Decoy Museum thanks everyone who volunteered their time before, during and after the Duck Fair. We are most grateful to the board members and friends of the Museum for helping in ways both large and small to make this wonderful family-oriented event such a success.

Collin Asbury	Capt. Robert Jones		
Chris Berry	Morgan Jones		
Bob Bendler	Terry Kahl-Smith		
Paul Butcher	Warren Saunders		
Debbie Buther	Madelyn M. Shank		
Joanne Calder	Mitch Shank		
John Case	Mert Street		
John Case Elly Coale	Mert Street Upper Chesapeake		
	Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta		
Elly Coale	Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl		
Elly Coale Jeff Coates	Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta		

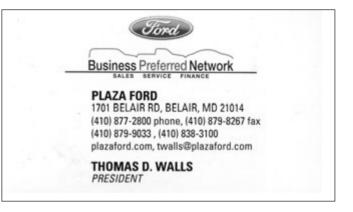
Thank you to all of this year's Duck Fair volunteers and staff!

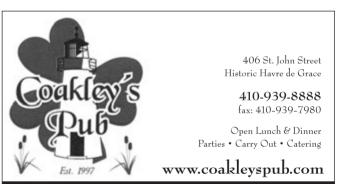


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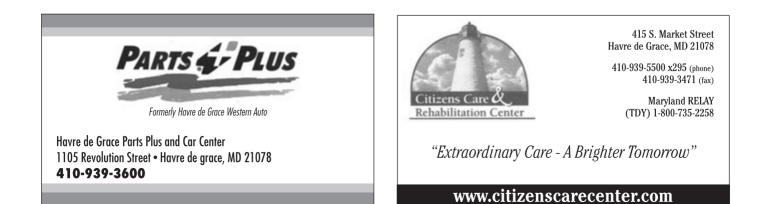
THOMAS D. WALLS

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Where there are no strangers only friends you have not met.



The Decoy Museum honors the passing of Charlie Bryan and creates the Byan-Joiner Endowment

The recent passing of decoy carver and devoted museum friend Charlie Bryan has prompted the Board of Directors to seek some appropriate way to honor Charlie Bryan's longstanding contributions to the Decoy Museum. Since Charlie's family has requested that donations should be made in his honor to the Decoy Museum, the Board decided to rename its operations endowment in his honor.

Concurrent with this decision, the Board of Directors also considered how best to likewise recognize Charlie Joiner's continuing contributions to the Decoy Museum. He, like Charlie Bryan, has given so much to the Decoy Museum and warrants the Museum's continued appreciation. Consequently, the Board believed it appropriate to intertwine Charlie Joiner with Charlie Bryan in the creation of another endowment fund called the Bryan-Joiner Endowment.

Since the Decoy Museum already receives collections support from the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust and publication production assistance from the C. John Sullivan Endowment, the Board thought that it was important for the Bryan-Joiner Endowment to provide ongoing operating support. The bottom line is that the Museum needs a guaranteed income to ensure that it will always be able to keep its doors open. Therefore, the Bryan-Joiner Endowment has been established to fulfill this need. Our goal now, therefore, is to build this fund up to a \$50,000 value. Once this objective has been achieved, the Museum will re-invest 60% of the annual income and utilize 40% to cover operational requirements.

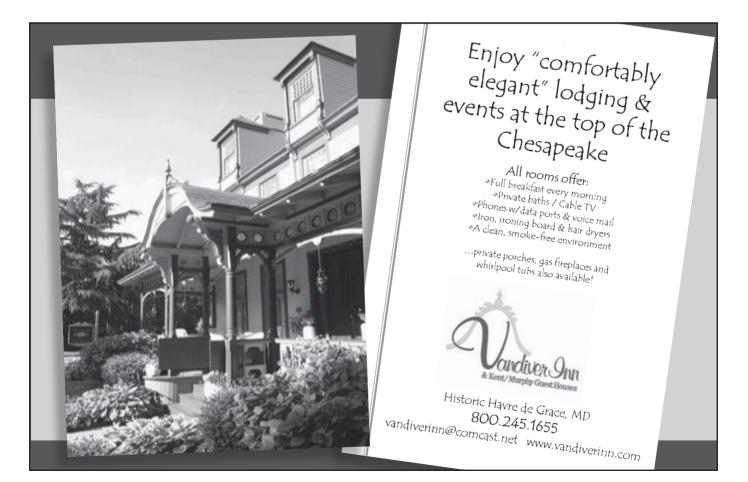
On behalf of the Decoy Museum Board of Directors, I do hope that our members will consider making a memorial contribu-



You can help the Bryan-Joiner Endowment grow by making a contribution to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Your contribution should be noted as a gift to the Bryan-Joiner Endowment on your check or noted in your cash donation. Your help building this fund will expand our ability to operate the Decoy Museum on a daily basis. It is you, our contributors, that have helped build this Museum. Now we must identify ways to sustain it. The Bryan-Joiner Endowment is a key path towards the Museum attaining self sufficiency.

tion in honor of Charlie Bryan to help initiate the Bryan-Joiner Endowment. Your support will make a difference and help ensure the Decoy Museum's future well-being.

-Pat Vincenti



The estaura

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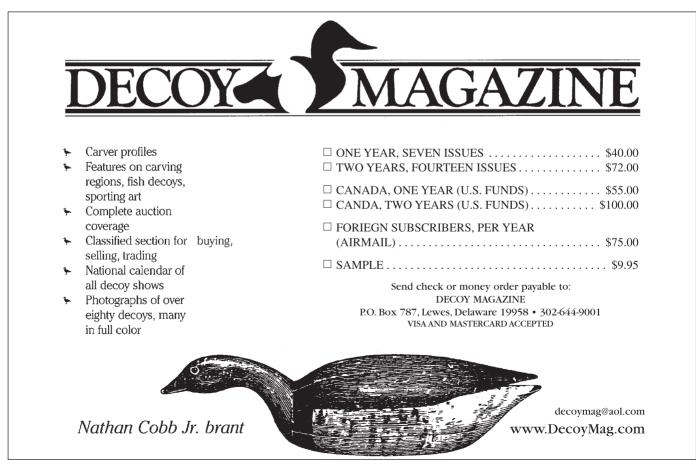
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Museum Members

Thank you to the following members and businesses that recently renewed their membership in July, August and September 2009. Your continued support and contributions are essential to the overall success of the Decoy Museum:

Dennis Abrams **Rodney Boggs** Mrs. David Bramble Richard Brown, Jr. G. Ronald Clements Larry Cook John Cox Jim Graves Chip Heaps Robert Kohn Jeff Kreit Steve & Scottie Lay **Richard Petti** Steven Snyder David Stavely, Sr. Philip & Nancy Tarnoff Barb & Helen Wachter William Walper, III Pat & Henry Walston L. Darryl Armstrong Anne Conover Peter Darwin

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New Members

Bert Jackson Mark Sakach Rennie Gay Robert Harris Ken, Sue, Josh & Sarah Hopkins Doug Shannon Stacey Lambert Pam Jordan Rich Riblett Charlie Robbins Henry Robbins Jerry Rutkowski Bill Sanders Vince Sherman Andrew Straka

members

You can help promote the Decoy Museum by sending the name and contact information of your local newspaper to *The Canvasback*. With this information we can reach out and send our news releases to the papers in your area! Please mail this information to the Decoy Museum, 215 Giles St., Havre de Grace, MD 21078, attn: Margaret Jones or email to decoy-museum@yahoo.com



Whose is the best?



The best! Who has the best? Mine is better than yours, it's bigger, it's faster, and I can run faster than you, and my father can beat up your father. HELLO!! EXCUSE

ME!!! How old are we? More and more frequently these days it seems that the issue of the best comes up. Is this the best Ward decoy? Is it really the best? Is this John B. Graham decoy really the best one ever? Do I think decoy carvers ever thought in such terms when they were creating these wooden tools that we all covet? Perhaps they did strive to make them better, to make them appear more realistic, to make them float better, to make them last longer. But did they really ever say to themselves this is going to be the best mallard or the best canvasback that I have ever made? I think with such decoys as the decorative James T. Holly canvasbacks now in the permanent collection of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum that Holly did think as he carved them that these are going to be very special and they will be the best that I can possibly create. Likewise with the other decorative decoys and miniatures, additional time

was certainly spent in carving them and painting them and even perhaps in selecting the best piece of wood to carve them from. But for the rest of us and in a most sincere effort to not discourage new collectors from joining our ranks why can't we simply consider what we collect by looking for what it really means to us. If our collections are merely investments than by all means seek out the best that we can possibly afford. But if we are collecting to enjoy these creations, consider other criteria. I personally have always thought of my collection as a history lesson. I have a story that I can relate on just about everything on my shelves. I particularly like my branded decoys; I like to know where they were used and who used them. Additionally I can appreciate the aesthetic beauty that I see in them. Years ago I met a collector of tools.

> I asked him one day

AT LEFT: Top view of a Holly decoy from the Michael's exhibit. Side view shown below.

after carrying an anvil into his kitchen why he had so many. He simply stated I like my tools, I like to look at them, I like to use them and I don't like any of them being too far away from my reach. That sums it up

for me. When I have a decoy displayed in a setting away from my shelves, I miss it. On the rare occasion that I have sold a decoy or traded it away I regret it and long to have it back near me. Are they the best? Yes they are to me, but for some very different reasons. Some collectors consider world record prices as a direct correlation to the best that there is. Others judge the best by whose collection it came from. As we enjoy our personal collections let us not simply see dollars signs when we admire the decoys resting on our shelves, remember it is all just stuff and there are many more non-decoy collector folks out there that will never understand why we do this at all. I for one can say I do it for the sake of history.



Who Would Have Guessed?

By Margaret Jones

love working in museums. You never know what you will encounter on any given day.

On Saturday, September 6th the Duck Fair was cancelled due to the remnants of tropical storm Hannah. The forecasters were calling for torrential rain, high winds and flooding. By mid day Saturday, the forecasters were correct. Havre de Grace had wind driven rain and tree branches falling all over town.

In the middle of this nasty day, a young lady, followed by a concerned looking couple, came into the Museum. The young lady was scheduled to have a 5PM outdoor wedding which obviously could not be. She had found an indoor venue for the service and was desperate for a place to take pictures. I agreed to keep the Museum open as long as we had power so she could have them taken here.

A few hours later when the party arrived, it was raining hard and the wind blowing harder than it had been all day.



The limousine pulled up and the group jumped out.

Slightly damp and a bit wind blown they made it inside and pictures were taken. The group admitted they had never thought that they would have their wedding pictures taken in a duck blind and by a boat full of decoys and were happy with how things turned out. They thought the day would become a wedding day nightmare, but agreed they all had a good time and had something special with which to remember the day.

We often get requests to use the Museum for many things. It was nice to be able to make a wedding day even more special when things were not going to work out the way they had planned. — *I just love working here*.



Tyler and Gabrielle Martinek with the new Duck Fair signs they helped to make.

Did You See Them?

id you see the new Duck Fair

signs? In the past the Duck Fair

committee would use the signs

from the Decoy Festival and put a sign

announcing the Duck Fair dates over

the festival information. The canvasback

decoy signs are easily noticed and every-

vasback signs were great, they were asso-

ciated with the festival and that the Duck

Fair needed something new and different.

Delta Waterfowl stepped in and, using a

It was decided that although the can-

one knows who they belong to.

pattern that was made by the staff, a new and fun sign was created.

Did you see them?

Ten signs went up in Harford and Cecil counties; large and very yellow rubber ducky signs. They were out on roadsides less than a day when calls came in about seeing the cute signs. Someone must have liked them a lot because one or two went home with them.

Thank you to all the volunteers who created the signs and put them up!

Where Do They All Come From?

any visitors to the Museum are people who have seen the Decoy Museum sign on I-95 and they come in to see what a Decoy Museum is. One of the questions they usually ask is "Who visits the Museum and where do they come from?" It is a good question and here is the answer.

A large majority of our visitors (73%) are from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Virginia. Various other states make up about 23%.

By Margaret Jones

By Margaret Jones

The final 4% are international visitors. In August we had people from Germany, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Who says decoys are only an American thing?





By Margaret Jones

hanks to the Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl and many other Museum supporters, the fall clean-up went very smoothly.

The back of the museum near the Mitchell shop has a retaining wall that was planted with bushes and other shrubs. Along with the shrubs and bushes grew weeds. Weeds that seemed to enjoy whatever means or methods we employed to eliminate them. They grew bigger and stronger. It was going to take some serious work to get it under control.

With the help of Delta Waterfowl, Americorps and other volunteers the bushes and shrubs were removed along with the Japanese knot weed and several bee nests. The area was mulched and a new split rail fence was installed. All the landscaping in the front of the Museum was weeded and the brush was cut back.

The Museum appreciates all the hard work, blisters and bee stings that went along with sprucing up the Museum!



Smart Buoy Placed Near Concord Point

By Margaret Jones

n September 13th representatives from Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, the City of Havre de Grace, Harford County and the state of Maryland, NOAA-Chesapeake Bay Office, National Park Service Gateway Program, National Geographic Society, The Conservation Fund, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Verizon Wireless, and the Friends of the John Smith Trail, came to Havre de Grace to launch another in a series of "smart buoys" along the Capt. John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Waterway trail.

The smart buoy transmits real-time meteorological and waterquality data and provides important geographic and historical information for research and education. The buoy also helps guide visitors along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The smart buoy uses wireless technology to transmit to the internet. Boaters traveling the waterway trail can either phone the buoy or go online to obtain information. For those who are not boaters and are following the trail by car, they too, can phone the buoy and receive the same information.

The buoy was placed in the Susquehanna River, just off Concord Point (near the lighthouse), and Perryville in mid channel. This bright yellow buoy is powered by a series of solar panels attached to all sides. Each of these buoys are loaded with sensors to monitor different environmental conditions.

NOAA and the Chesapeake Gateways Network will be providing educational program guides so teachers can incorporate the buoy information into classroom studies or field trip programs.

You can access the "smart buoy" by visiting www.buoybay.org or call toll free 877-BUOY-BAY. If you would like more information regarding the Capt. John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail visit www.nps.gov/cajo or www.baygateways.net.

Say Farewell then Hello to...

By Margaret Jones

ennifer Retzlaff has been working in the Museum gift shop for the past three years. Jen graduated from Harford Vocational Technical high school and is now attending Stevenson College (formerly Villa Julie College). Due to the demands of college, Jen will be leaving us. Those of you who met Jen in the gift shop know how considerate and friendly she was. Jen was a favorite employee and will be missed. The next time you come in you may meet Teresa Kahl-Smith or Courtney Tramontana. Teresa started working in the gift shop in September. Courtney started in January this year. During your next visit, stop by the gift shop and welcome these fine young ladies to the Museum staff.

CHESAPEAKE BAY RETRIEVERS, DECOYS & LONG GUNS

TALES OF CARROLL'S ISLAND DUCKING CLUB

BY C. JOHN SULLIVAN



John Sullivan's newest book was released in March 2008 at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's member meeting.

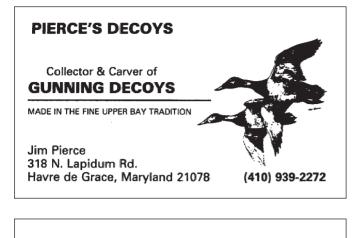
Quoting the cover, "The stories from

Carroll's Island Ducking club, which was founded in the mid-nineteenth century, offer special insights about the Chesapeake Bay's waterfowling heritage."

Copies of the book are available in the Museum gift shop and/or through phone order directly from the Museum. These copies are signed by the author. CHESAPEAKE BAY RETRIEVERS, DECOYS & LONG GUNS TALES OF CARROLL'S ISLAND DUCKING CLUB

C. JOHN SULLIVAN JR.





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Tickets \$75 each



All proceeds benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum For tickets and information call the **Decoy Museum** at 410-939-3739

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Have You Got What it Takes to be a Volunteer?

Do you have a few hours a week you could give to the museum? How about a few hours a year for the Festival or the Duck Fair? Do you enjoy early morning bird walks and would you like to share your knowledge with others? If you have the time, we have the need.

The Museum is dedicated to offering a wide variety of activities to its members and to the public. We are looking for volunteers who would like to assist with leading adult group tours, and/or answer phones. Can you help with large mailings or assist with special events like the Festival and Duck Fair? We would like to expand our activities and programs, but we need your help.

Volunteers are a great asset to any organization. We would love to have you come aboard.

Contact Joanne Calder or Margaret Jones

at the Museum 410-939-3739 or email us at decoymuseum@yahoo.com to see how you can become a part of our volunteer staff.





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	Gift Membership		
Gift From:	1			
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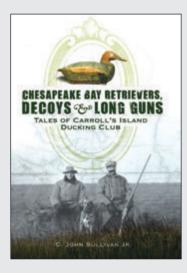
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Here are a few items which will make nice additions to any decoy collection. Some of the items are in limited supply and feature autographs. All are available in our gift shop or by sending in the order form below. Member discounts do not apply except where indicated.



Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Decoys & Long Guns Tales of Carroll's Island Ducking Club

by C. John Sullivan

John Sullivan's newest book was released in March 2008 at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's member meeting. Quoting the cover, "The stories from Carroll's Island Ducking club, which was founded in the mid-nineteenth century, offer special insights about the Chesapeake Bay's waterfowling heritage."

\$25.00

R. Madison Mitchell His Life and Decoys

R. Madison Mitchell— His Life and Decoys

By Charles Lee Robbins

This book which was printed by the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, presents a comprehensive look at the life and time of R. Madison Mitchell along with examples of his carving. A limited quantity are still available.

\$25.00



Winter's Eve on Concord Point Print

A Limited edition print created by Chis White. This depiction of the original Concord Point Lighthouse and Keepers residence in the winter would make a wonderful present for the lighthouse enthusiast.

\$50.00 (member special \$25.00)



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1987 Havre de Grace Decoy Festival Book

This booklet, which served as the program for the 1987 Festival is signed by honorary chairman Charlie Joiner. A biography of Charles "Speed" Joiner and articles on the beginning of the Museum and an article on carver Carolyn W. Colburn. An excellent addition to any collection.

\$25.00

CHECK THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

Winter's Eve on Concord Point Print		
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1987 Festival Book	\$25	
Chesapeake Bay Retrievers	\$25	
R. Madison Mitchell—His Life.	\$25	
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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

Potomac Decoy Collector's Association Ruddy Duck exhibit, second floor gallery — Joseph Coudon of H. exhibit, second floor gallery — Honorary Duck Fair Chairman, Paul Butcher exhibit, 1st floor lobby

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.

OCTOBER 30TH	DECEMBER 13TH TO DECEMBER 14TH	
Halloween Parade. 6p.m. registration, 6:30pm parade. Washington St. and Congress Ave; Most exciting event of the year! Dress in costume and join us for a music and a parade. Lots of Fun! For more information call: 410-939-6724	The Christmas Boutique. Sat.9–1/Sun.12–8 Takes place in the historic Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House. A wonderful blend of handmade items, fresh greens, gourmet foods, and more. For more information call 410-939-4078 or visit: www.lockhousemuseum.org	
NOVEMBER 8TH	DECEMBER 14TH	
Havre de Grace Maritime Museum: 11am-10pm. A day of member discounts in the Museum shop (11–5) and an evening (6–10) of celebrating all the people who help make the Museum possible-our Founders, Members, and Volunteers! Free admission for members. For more information call 410-939- 4800 or email: museum@comcast.net or visit www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org	36th Annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Havre de Grace. 4p.m.–8p.m. Will be held on a Sunday, visitors will tour historic homes, Havre de Grace muse- ums, shops, bed and breakfasts, and a church. There is an admission fee. For more information call: 410-939-5780 or visit: www.lockhousemuseum.org	
NOVEMBER 8TH TO NOVEMBER 9TH	DECEMBER 14TH	
Susquenna Lockhouse Museum: "Pirates By the Bay." ALL DAY! Come visit the pirates in their camps, watch the attacks on the "town", witness the hangings, be a pirate. For more information call 410-939-5780 or visit: www.lockhousemuseum.org	Havre de Grace Maritime Museum: Candlelight Tour and Maritime Christmas. 11a.m.–8p.m. The Maritime Museum is just one stop on this year's Candlelight tour. Celebrate the holidays with a special maritime flare. For more information call: 410-939-4800 or email: museum@comcast.net or visit www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org	
NOVEMBER 11TH	Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Candlelight Tour Celebration. 12p.	
Veterans Day. 11a.m. Tydings Park; Ceremonies honoring all military veterans. For more information call: 410-939-0449	m-8p.m. The Decoy Museum is just one stop on this year's Candlelight tour. Celebrate the holidays with a special look at the natural decorations and holiday shopping in our gift shop. Tickets for the Candlelight Tour are available at the museum. For more information call: 410-939-3739 or email decoymuseum@yahoo.com	
NOVEMBER 15TH		
Guided Nature and Historical Walk of the North Park Trail. 10a.m. Free to public. Approximately one hour. Meet at the Lock House of the	DECEMBER 28TH	
Susquehanna Museum. For more information call 410-939-5780 or visit: www.lockhousemuseum.org	Susquehanna Ministerium: HdG Church Tour. 2–4p.m. Self-guided tour of the churches of Hdg. 19th & 20th Century Churches, Beautiful stained glass windows & Nativity Scenes, angelically decorated for Christ's Birth.	
NOVEMBER 22ND	Admission is free. For more information contact: Ray Astor at 410-690- 6068 or 410-939-2464	
Havre de Grace High School Music Booster's Fall Craft Festival. Located	0000 01 410-939-2404	
at 700 Congress Ave, Havre de Grace, MD, 21078. For more information contact: Rick Hauf at richard.hauf@hcps.org	DECEMBER 31ST TO JANUARY 1ST 2009	
	HdG. Recreation Committee/City of HdG: New Year's Eve Fireworks and	
DECEMBER 6TH TO DECEMBER 7TH	Duck Drop. Fireworks to celebrate the New Year! Address: 454 Lewis Lane, Havre de Grace, MD, 21078. For more information contact: Carolyn Narvell	
Steppingstone Farm Museum: Christmas Open House. 12–4p.m. Historic farmhouse decorated for the holidays, music, cookies and cider in the little museum stars are far holiday character. For more information	at 410-939-2100	
kitchen, museum store open for holiday shopping. For more information contact: Linda M. Noll at 410-939-2299 or email: steppingstonemuseum@	APRIL 4, 2009	
msn.com or visit www.steppingstonemuseum.org	Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's General Membership Meeting. 2p.m.–5p.m.	

34th Annual Candlelight Sour

December 14, 2008

Museum Hours: Noon – 4 p.m. Candlelight Tour: 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Call the Decoy Museum at **410-939-3739** for more information.

Admission after 4pm requires Candlelight Tour ticket

Candlelight Tour Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the museum.

8pm will be the drawing for the Fall Raffle.





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A Small Sampling of Lite Fare Items

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