

The Canvasback

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

Winter 2009
Vol. 18 No. 1

\$4.00



*Fine Artisan
and Carver*

Ray Whetzel



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

**Second Annual Susquehanna Flats
Vintage
Hunting and Fishing Collectibles Show**

Approx. 100 Tables

Saturday, January 31, 2009

Time 9am - 4pm • Early Birds 8am

Admission \$6.00 Early Bird Admission \$15.00

Level Volunteer Fire Hall

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FEATURING

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Proceeds to Benefit



Level Fire Co. & Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

For More Information Contact

Pat Vincenti 410-734-6238

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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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Left: Works created by Ray Whetzel

Tidewater Grille



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Havre de Grace, MD 21078
(410) 939-3739

www.decoymuseum.com

From the President

Dear Museum Member,

On behalf of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, the Staff and the Board of Directors want to wish everyone a prosperous and happy 2009.

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum looks forward to an exciting year, with many things planned for 2009. Our major fund raiser, the Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival will feature the usual carvers, painters and collectors and also a great new addition — “Dock Dogs.” I’m sure many of you have seen



“Dock Dogs” on television and know what a fantastic show they put on. The Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl will be sponsoring the “Dock Dogs.” Make sure you bring your family and friends to the Festival and see this great event.

When you visit the Decoy Museum, please stop by our Gift Shop. You will find shirts with decoy logos, all sorts of art work from prints to paintings. We have decoys made by local carvers, walking sticks with duck heads, all kinds of books on carving, collecting and cooking. The shopper can find something for everyone, even the person who has everything.

Please do not forget that you still have time to make a tax deductible donation to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. In this time of economic unrest, non-profits have to work very hard for the money we need to keep the museum running. We are fortunate that all of our Board of Directors and Officers volunteer their time and hard work to the museum without compensation for their efforts. Their generous donation of their time makes it possible to allow all of your donation to go directly to the cost of running the Decoy Museum where it is needed the most.

During the cold winter months, stop by the Museum and warm up, bring a friend or neighbor — you are sure to have an enjoyable day.

Sincerely,



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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Bill Veasey

HONORARY CHAIRMAN

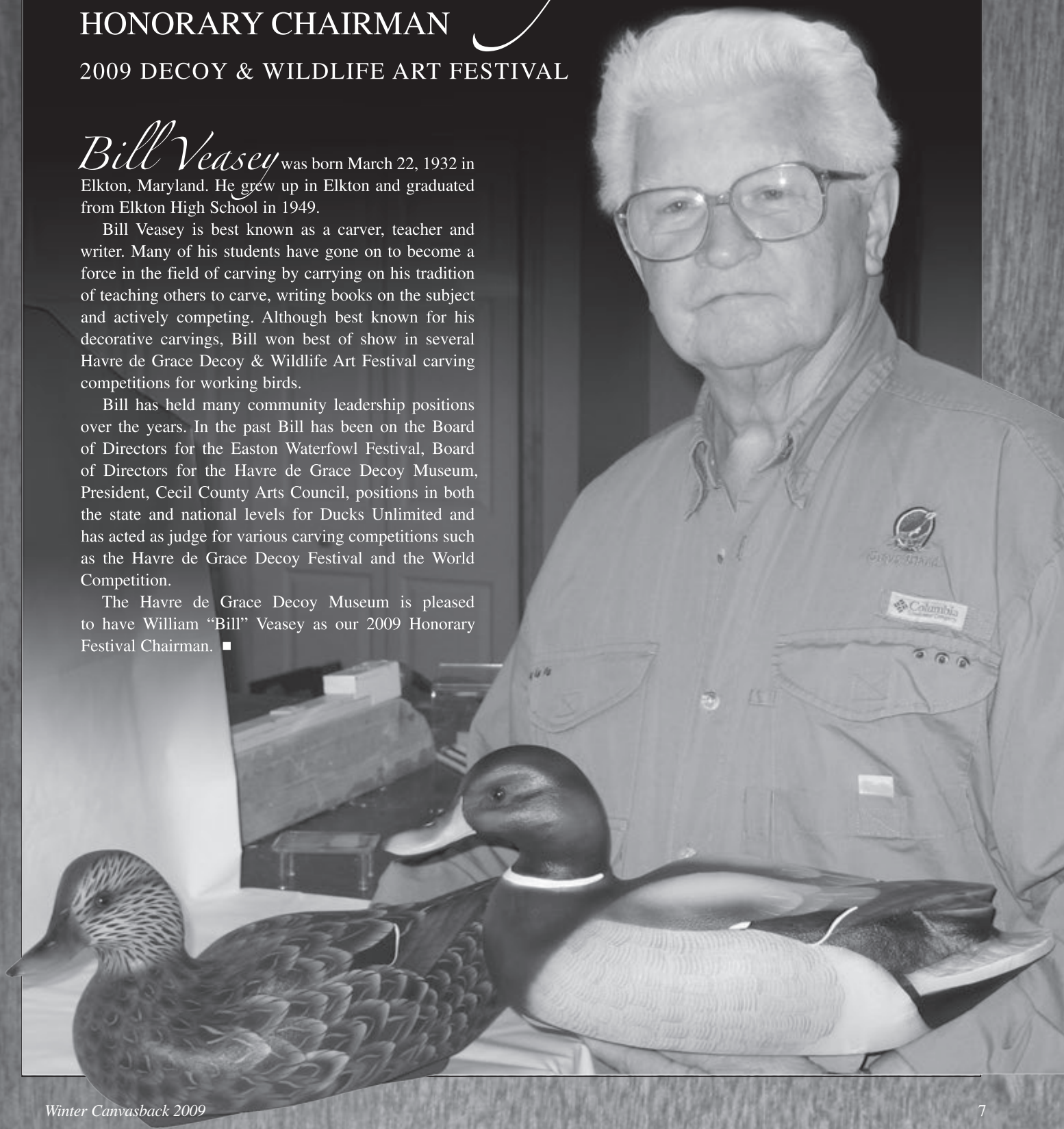
2009 DECOY & WILDLIFE ART FESTIVAL

Bill Veasey was born March 22, 1932 in Elkton, Maryland. He grew up in Elkton and graduated from Elkton High School in 1949.

Bill Veasey is best known as a carver, teacher and writer. Many of his students have gone on to become a force in the field of carving by carrying on his tradition of teaching others to carve, writing books on the subject and actively competing. Although best known for his decorative carvings, Bill won best of show in several Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival carving competitions for working birds.

Bill has held many community leadership positions over the years. In the past Bill has been on the Board of Directors for the Easton Waterfowl Festival, Board of Directors for the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, President, Cecil County Arts Council, positions in both the state and national levels for Ducks Unlimited and has acted as judge for various carving competitions such as the Havre de Grace Decoy Festival and the World Competition.

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is pleased to have William "Bill" Veasey as our 2009 Honorary Festival Chairman. ■





Renowned waterfowl artist Art LeMay (L) holding special order 42" gag-grouper made by Ray Whetzel (R).

Ray Whetzel

By: Jim Trimble

Fine Artisan and Prolific Carver

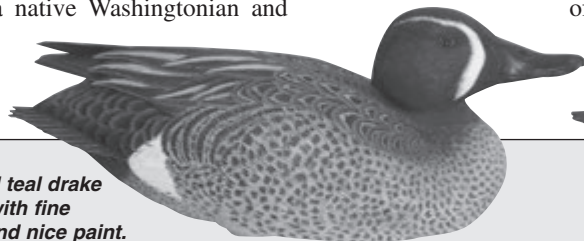
While attending the Rappahanock spring waterfowl show a year and a half ago, I saw a man working his way through the crowd while carrying a large attractive wall-hanger fish. When I made inquiry, I found that the fish, a 42-inch gag-grouper, was made special order by Ray Whetzel for delivery at the show. The owner of the fish turned out to be world renowned waterfowl artist Art LeMay who graciously posed with Whetzel and fish for photos.

Living in the Washington, DC area, I was familiar with Ray Whetzel's fine carvings before I met him some 15 years ago. The occasion was a decoy and model boat show in Southern Maryland where I was asked to participate as "resident expert," identifying and valuing decoys. One of the show vendors was Whetzel, and I purchased a bird carving before the show opened. His table was almost bare by noontime. A friendship developed over the years as I acquired a few more of his carvings. He has also applied his talented hand in restoring to original likeness some of my antique decoys.

Whetzel, a native Washingtonian and a retired US

Government worker, worked as Graphics Chief of the Executive Office Publication Branch at the US Executive Office Building in downtown Washington. He was charged with creating and producing graphics for various presidential reports, from President Richard Nixon through the senior George Bush. His graphic designs can be found on the cover and/or on the inside of various White House documents and publications as well as on awards, certificates, charts, etc. Whetzel's job included visits to the Oval Office where artistic and graphic needs were discussed, or to the Executive Office press room, or to the US Capitol where Whetzel would watch the President or a White House spokesman use his graphics and artistry for presentation support, including the presentation of the nation's budget. Whetzel was also present each year for the ceremonial presidential signing of the approved budget that usually took place in the oval office. I am sure, as history turned, these government publications are mostly shredded or are now pigeon holed someplace in the cellars of the Library of Congress.

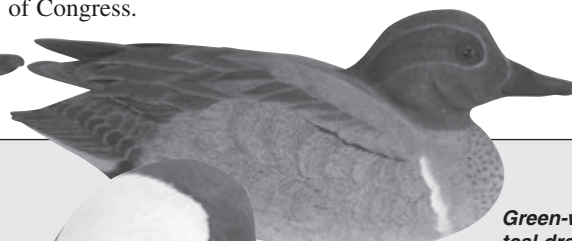
Blue-winged teal drake decorative with fine feathering and nice paint.



Bufflehead drake with nice detail and fine paint.



Green-winged teal drake with detailed feathering and fine paint.



Drawing and painting, a natural gift, is something that Whetzel has done his entire life. It was a visit to a Salisbury, Maryland “duck” show in 1978 that piqued his interest in yet another art form, the carving and painting of waterfowl in graceful but realistic form. Materials, tools, and techniques were discussed and replayed in his mind on the way home. That week, tools and material were acquired and he made and painted his first wooden duck—he was hooked!

Whetzel signed up for carving classes given by Dan Williams as well as attending Don Briddell’s carving seminars, both well known Maryland decorative carvers. Whetzel was able to easily shape the wood. It was his patience and artistic touch with burning tool and paint that created the delicate feathering detail, and as skills honed, his birds took on life-like form. Within the year he was competing at area shows which soon expanded to shows up and down the East Coast. He was carving for ribbons and in some cases cash prizes. He also sold his creations as a vendor at a variety of duck shows where competition birds were entered. Whetzel also became a member of several area carving clubs that met regularly to exchange knowledge, ideas and technique. He chuckles as he talks about the camaraderie and friendship of these clubs. He noted it was only natural as competition shows neared; members became tight-lipped about their entry creations.

Likeness and form study came from migrating waterfowl that visited the Potomac River a few short blocks from his Oxon Hill home, as well as from books, photographs, and shows. It was an old black duck decoy that he found along the shores of the Potomac that again piqued his interest, this time in old gunning decoys, birds he had seen over the years, but to which he had not paid much attention. Many members of his carving clubs collected old decoys. The found decoy in worn original paint was identified as

being made by Ben Schmidt of Detroit, MI. Whetzel, along with a few other carving members soon joined the newly established Potomac River Decoy Collectors Association (PDCA), a group that collected old decoys. However, their monthly competition tables included a contemporary category and was another venue to compete. It also offered a waterfowling knowledge exchange, tables full of old decoys for study, plus an opportunity to sell his carved creations. Gunning style decoys or “slicks” with fine paint proved popular with membership—not only his ducks, but shorebirds, songbirds and fish. Whetzel was asked and accommodated with a few restorations and paint touch-up. He was also acquiring old decoys and soon expanded his carvings with stylized antique birds, all plainly marked with his RW burned signature.

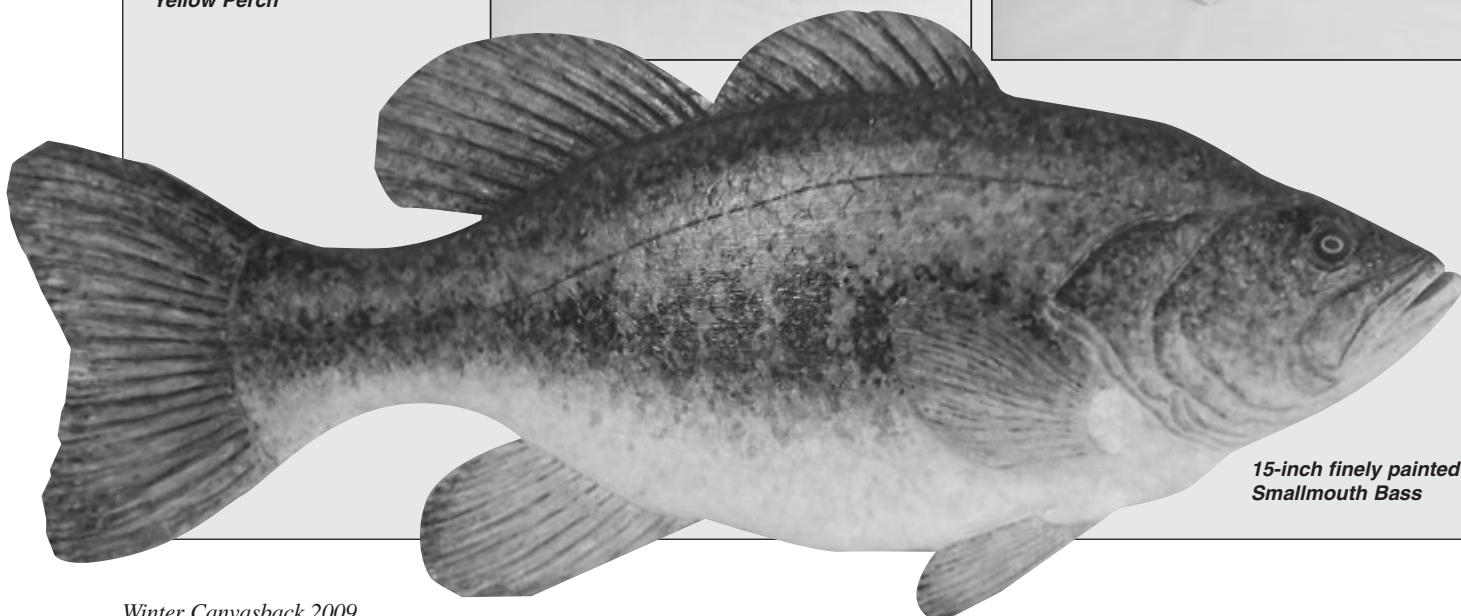
We all know what a portrait painter is. Some of us might even laugh about people who pay to have their dog or cat memorialized with a finely painted portrait. Whetzel does “favorite decoy” water color portraits that have proven to be very popular. Besides the collector, some of those portraits are done for sons or grandsons of the original carver; or an individual will want a decoy done that was a part of his father’s or grandfather’s gunning rig. It is not unusual, when visiting a decoy collector in our area, to see some of Whetzel’s framed realistic decoy portraits hanging, overlooking a room full of decoys.

Whetzel has a vast collection of show ribbons collected over the years. Many of them are blue ribbons, some of them best in show. This past spring at the Ward Museum sponsored “World Competitions,” featuring some of the nation’s finest carvers; he won three ribbons, one of them a first place in the Antique Confidence category. Another bird, a flicker, won a Best in Show at an earlier “World Competition,” and spent 6-months on display at the Ward Museum.

Fish Carvings

LEFT: 22-inch Rainbow Trout in fine paint

RIGHT: 17-inch, finely painted Yellow Perch



15-inch finely painted Smallmouth Bass

"Nu-Old" or "Antique" Stylized Decoys

LEFT: Ruddy showing the classic lines of Back Bay Virginia/ North Carolina with imbedded shot.

RIGHT: Widgeon gunner in fine paint with raised primaries.



LEFT: Bluebill reminiscent of Cecil County, MD, with leather strap, paddle tail, and imbedded shot.

RIGHT: Doug Jester style buffelhead pair.



BELOW LEFT: Sanderling with fine feather carving and split tail.

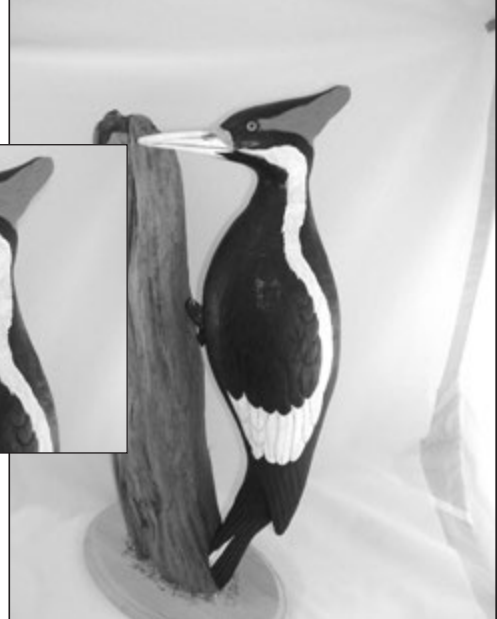
BELOW RIGHT: Ruddy turnstone in old finish.



Hooded merganser with carved wing delineation.



Whetzel's ivory billed woodpecker; 21-inches tall with stand. This fine bird, long-thought extinct, was rediscovered in Arkansas in 2004.



Several years ago, Whetzel was selected as Carver of the Year by the Rappahonock Ducks Unlimited Chapter, a group he has supported for many years. Two years ago, the US Government Patuxent Wildlife Research Center called on Whetzel to deliver one of his carvings to popular local NBC weatherman Bob Ryan to promote their forthcoming decoy and state stamp competition show. Ryan gave his forecasts with a Whetzel mallard duck front and center, with commentary about the Patuxent sponsored weekend show. Whetzel tells of the masses that visited the show and that many recognized the mallard duck as being the same as the one they saw on their television. Needless to say, it was a good show for Whetzel.

One unusual call came from the State of Maryland Governor's office. They wanted to purchase decoys as they had seen his work at the Patuxent show. Whetzel wrapped and bundled several of his carvings and drove to meet the purchaser. They were purchasing State of Maryland gifts from the Governor for visiting dignitaries. Whetzel chuckles as he recalls asking for Maryland sales tax and they were ill-prepared with tax exempt identification. He was also pleased that his carvings were chosen as state gifts, considering all of the fine Maryland carvers.

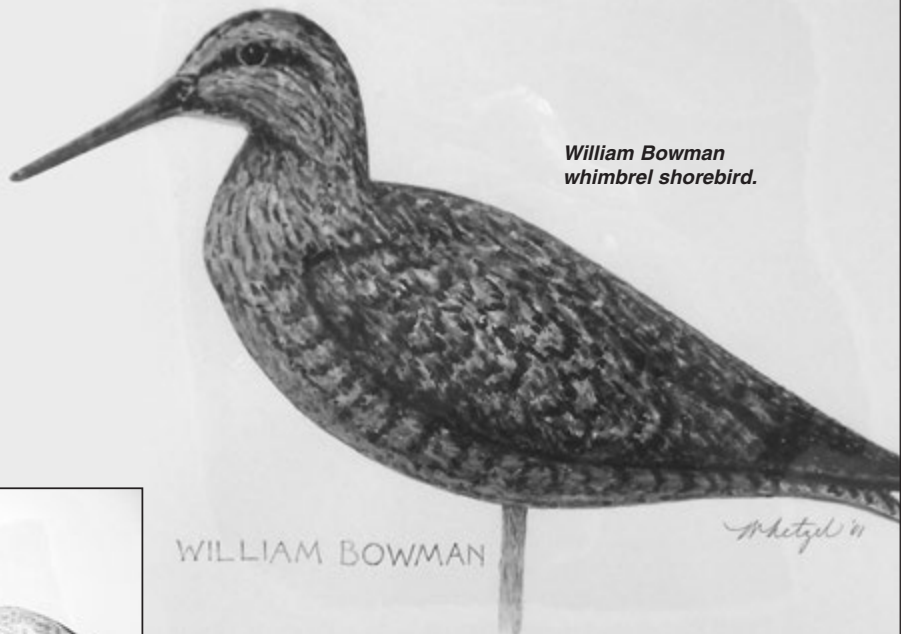
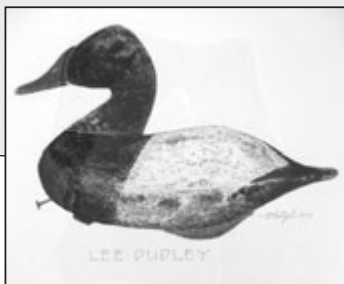
Longtime blue ribbon carver Bruce Eppard tells of meeting Whetzel at a Salisbury, Maryland show in the early 1980s. Not only did he like what Whetzel was producing, but he also lived in the same geographical location. "I sort

Half-size green-winged teal "slicks" with fine point.



Watercolor Paintings

BELOW TOP: Rock fish, the Chesapeake Bay's dominant game fish and the State of Maryland's official state fish



William Bowman
whimbrel shorebird.

RIGHT: Ira Hudson, bluebill pair. A local collector was so pleased with his recent Hudson acquisitions that he had Whetzel memorialize them for hanging in his office.

LEFT: Lee Dudley canvasback

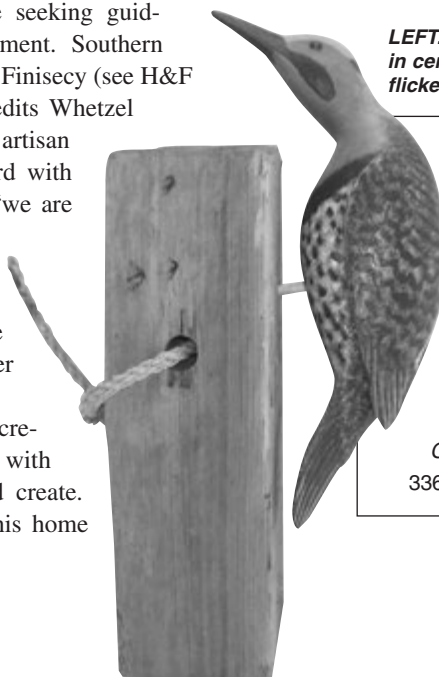
of adopted Whetzel as a mentor, whether he liked it or not" says Eppard. He also looked for Whetzel at the shows and as others were doing, he would bring birds for Whetzel to critique. "Some of these guys are brutal and will rip from the get-go" says Eppard, "but Whetzel was always supportive and encouraging and the criticism was always constructive." Whetzel lent his patterns and Eppard went to his house to use his band saw as well as discuss technique. "He has had a great influence on the designs and lines of my birds" says Eppard. "He would even lend me finished birds to take home and study." Eppard continued "when I started, Whetzel was considered a top area carver; he was very competitive and he was competing against some of the best carvers along the East Coast—I selected my mentor well!"

Eppard was not the only one seeking guidance and using Whetzel's equipment. Southern Maryland blue ribbon carver Mark Finisey (see H&F Collectibles Mar/Apr 07) also credits Whetzel as mentor saying "he is a fine artisan and friend who is straight forward with his critiques. Finisey continues "we are long-term friends who often discuss techniques, paint, and style, and then go head to head at area competition tables." Finisey is the one that Whetzel has looked to over the years to critique his work.

When job retirement came, the creative juices switched to overdrive with more time to research, study and create. Whetzel is a prolific carver and his home

contains a potpourri of his creations in different stages of coming to life. He is surrounded by waterfowl, fish and songbirds and there are easels containing drawings, many of them "favorite decoys." Some of his carvings and water colors are now done to order and there is a small group of the same people who look for Whetzel and purchase as he does the East Coast decoy and carving show circuit. One of the birds on the table is a forlorn Doug Jester merganser decoy stripped bare along time ago. It is awaiting "old paint" application to original likeness from gifted hands. When done, the merganser will never ride tidal waters again, but will rest on the collector's shelf. It will have new life, just like his carving creations. It is a talent along with hard work and study that has brought Whetzel a lifetime of satisfaction! ■

LEFT: Whetzel flicker; the flicker was hunted for meat and eaten in certain areas of the Eastern Shore MD-VA. The old original flicker decoys from that area are very collectible.



Jim Trimble is a regular contributor to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's *The Canvasback* magazine. He combines his love of history with his interest in Chesapeake Bay and Chincoteague area decoys, through the numerous waterfowl related articles that he has written. If you have information of early decoy makers from that area, contact him at (703) 768-7264 or potomacduck@cox.net.

This article was reprinted with the permission of *H & F Collectibles Magazine*, P.O. Box 40, Lawsonville, NC 27022. 336-593-9477

J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest

2009 COMPETITION

The 7th Annual J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest to be held in conjunction with the 2009 Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival will be held Saturday, May 2nd at the Middle School Gym. Entries will be accepted at the stage area from 10:00 a.m. until judging at noon. Joe Engers, editor & publisher of *Decoy Magazine* will head up a three-member judge's panel. Participants must make a best faith effort to assure that all decoy entries were made prior to 1950. Each decoy will be limited to one category competition only. Matched pairs entered in other than a Matched Pair category will be considered as one entry. There is a competition ban, regardless of category, on last year's winning birds. Competition decoys will be kept in a highly visible roped-off secure area and will not be handled by the public. At approximately 1:00p.m., the public will be invited to review the roped off and secured tables once the judges have made their selections. A blue ribbon will be awarded for each of the following ten category winners. The three-judge panel will also select a best in show winner. Winners will be requested to display their decoys and ribbons at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum for a three month period.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Best Upper Bay Puddle Duck | 6. Best Mid-Bay or Eastern Shore Black Duck |
| 2. Best Standley Evans Decoy | 7. Best Virginia Brant |
| 3. Best Paul Gibson Decoy | 8. Best Coastal Jersey, Delaware River Mallard |
| 4. Best J. Evans McKinney Decoy (<i>age requirement waived</i>) | 9. Best Canvasback, any area |
| 5. Best Wooden Wing Duck | 10. Best Unknown |

There will be no restrictions as to those who can participate or number of categories entered; however participants are restricted to no more than three birds per category. Competition issues will be resolved at the sole discretion of the competition chairman and/or competition chief judge. Any questions, please contact contest chairman Jim Trimble @ 703-768-7264 or potomacduck@cox.net

EAST COAST DECOY COLLECTORS



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Saturday
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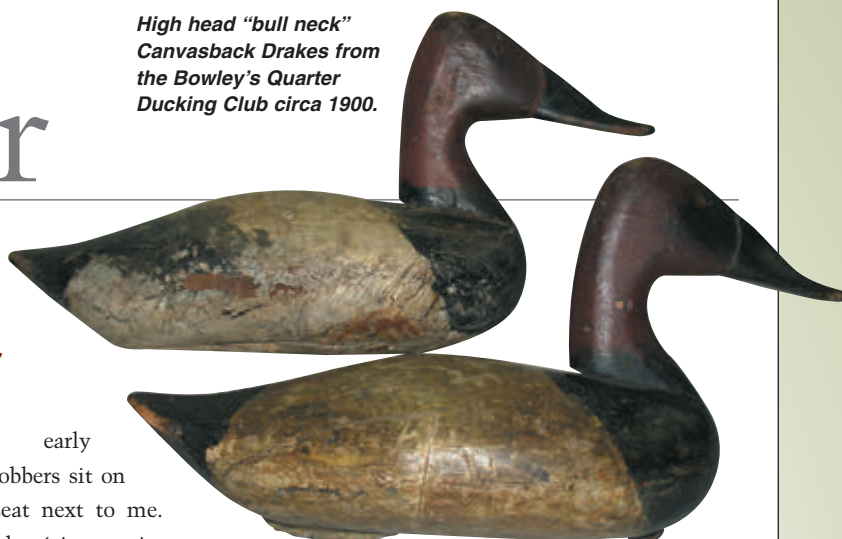
Free Decoy Appraisals

PUBLIC WELCOME

Collector's corner

BY C. JOHN SULLIVAN

*High head "bull neck"
Canvasback Drakes from
the Bowley's Quarter
Ducking Club circa 1900.*



A Day in the Life of a Collector



We all have a good day from time to time or as some say "even a blind squirrel finds an occasional nut." I had one of those good days several years back. I can attribute it to so many things in life: luck, happenstance, being at the right place at the right time or perhaps the proper alignment of the stars, the moon and planets. This was one of those days.

In April of 2003, I received a tip from a local antique dealer that a gentleman had called. He had some old decoys and some old guns to sell. I looked at the note sitting on my desk all day long. And at 5 minutes to 5 o'clock, I made the phone call introducing myself after the third ring to the gentleman. "Yes, I have some old decoys, my father got them from the Bowley's Quarters Gunning Club, they were under the ladies room in the cellar." "Do you have any old guns?" He says, "Yes, I have an 8-gauge English breech loader that came from Bowley's Quarters Gunning Club. I got my grandfather's Remington Model 11 with an extended tube." "When can I come to see them?" I ask. He gives me directions and I'm on the road. It is now 8:11 and I am returning from Middle River with 90 decoys in the back of my Suburban having written two checks to cover my purchases. Three

wonderful early fish float bobbbers sit on the front seat next to me. The pièce de résistance is one decoy, a bluebill drake that is by the same maker as the decoy sticking up in front of two men photographed at Grace's Quarter. I would say that out of the approximately 90 decoys there are 20 to 30 Holly's, maybe 1 or 2 early McGaw's, some by Bailey Moltz from Havre de Grace – all redhead drakes, a big bold high head canvasback Holly drake, a big horse head Jim Currier canvasback drake, and of course, the wonderful little bluebill. Some early, early branded decoys, one with the brand J. Breese (Breese was the one-time owner of the Oakington estate) on its underside, others with just initials. A great visit, a great pile of stuff. I'll maybe be able to wash about 6 of them tonight, and a new term was introduced to me for storytelling. Low ceiling dirt floored cellar smelling of cat and dog, burned coal and the earthen floor, banging my head on the beams, cobwebs over every thing and 86 of the decoys way back in the furnace room, I could only look at them with a flashlight. I made my offer and bought them that way. Once I got them carried outside in the daylight they didn't look nearly as good as they did with the flashlight. I said to the gentleman "These look a lot worse out here in this light than they did with a flashlight." He replied "Don't tell me that John Sullivan, I know

you know what you're doing, you're what my father called a "smarter." I said, "A 'smarter,' what's that mean?" He said, "You've never heard that term? There's a new one for you." I said, "Well, what is a smarter?" He said, "You're smarter than I am when it comes to these decoys. You'll do fine." I think he was right, I did do fine. But the biggest problem is I am the worst kind of collector, a collector who hates to part with anything. The fish bobbbers went into baskets with dozens of others that came from the same area; the decoys are displayed in my boats, my baskets and on my shelves. Am I smarter? I doubt it, but I am richer. Yes, I am richer from the experience and the stories that these old wooden decoys can tell.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have come upon that rig from the historic Bowley's Quarters Gunning club, a club that dates back to the mid-1800s. Approximately six months after I cleaned out that cellar a tropical storm by the name of Isabel finished the job, leaving in her wake extensive damage to the cellar, and washing away anything the foundation and I might have mistakenly left behind. ■

28th Annual Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival



May 1st, 2nd & 3rd, 2009

Friday: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

 **LIVE AUCTION** 

Saturday at 5:30 pm

ADMISSION

\$6.00 per day / \$10.00 weekend pass
Children under 12 FREE with an adult

HELD AT

Havre de Grace Middle School

401 Lewis Lane

Havre de Grace Activity Center

401 Lewis Lane (*behind Middle School*)

Decoy Museum

Market & Giles Streets

Harris Stadium — Dock Dog Trials

Next to Havre de Grace High School

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM
215 Giles Street
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

call for more information

410-939-3739

or visit us online

www.decoymuseum.com

FALL RAFFLE *Thank You*

The board and staff of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum want to thank everyone who participated in the Fall Raffle. This successful event generated almost \$10,000 in unrestricted income for the Museum.

Special thanks to the following people who generously contributed items for the raffle prizes:

- ✦ Bob Bendler
- ✦ Art Oertel
- ✦ Rennie Gay
- ✦ Gary Ross
- ✦ Ed Watts

This year's raffle was the most successful that the museum has had. We could not have done it without the support of our members and friends. Congratulations to those who won these wonderful prizes.



THE HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM'S ANNUAL **SPORTING CLAY CLASSIC** **2009**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW — for the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's annual Sporting Clay Shoot to be held on Sunday, May 24, 2009 at 9am at Pintail Point in Queenstown, Maryland.

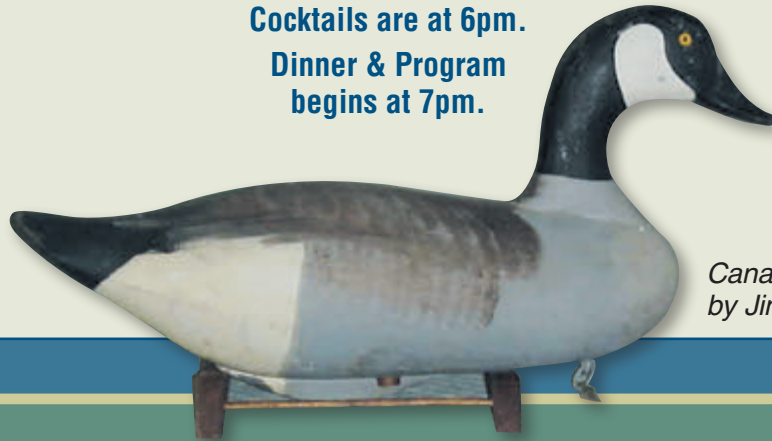
It may be Memorial Day weekend, but Pintail Point would be a wonderful way to spend the day. The shooting course is along the Wye River. The air conditioned club house has a great view, nice gift shop and a friendly atmosphere. Visit their website at **www.THERIVERPLANTATION** for directions and further information about their other facilities.

Registration begins at 9am and the last shooter is allowed on the course at noon. Registration is \$75 and includes lunch. You can register that day or pre-register by filling out the form in the magazine. Contact the museum for additional information by calling 410-939-3739 or email decoymuseum@yahoo.com.

*The Directors of the
R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust*
Proudly Announce and Invite you to attend the
**Sixteenth Annual
Endowment Banquet**

to be held on March 13, 2009
at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace, Md.

**Cocktails are at 6pm.
Dinner & Program
begins at 7pm.**



*Canada Goose carved
by Jim Pierce in 1955*

Each year the Trust has been afforded the opportunity to offer something special in our decoy lottery and this year is no different. We are extremely fortunate to offer 25 full size Canada Geese carved by Jim Pierce in 1955.

At the age of twenty-two and finishing his military service, Jim traveled from Fort Monmouth, New Jersey to his home on the weekends so he could finish carving his gunning rig for the upcoming season. He and long time friend Jimmy Collins hunted together on

the Susquehanna flats as well as the fields of the Eastern Shore. These geese are in original paint and have been rigged for both water and the field. Both Jim Pierce and Jimmy Collins have made this one of a kind donation to the Mitchell Trust.

The Directors of the Trust want to express our sincere appreciation to both Jim Pierce and Jim Collins for their continued support and we want to thank you for helping Mr. Mitchell's vision become reality. Look forward to seeing you at this year's banquet.

Thanks to your participation, this years Endowment Banquet was a complete success. Please enjoy some of the candid photos from the night's activities.



Madison Mitchell Dipper Swan presented to Museum President Ed Watts and Curator John Quarstein.



Art Ortell long time supporter receiving Appreciation Award.



Master of Ceremonies Lou Nolan receiving Appreciation Award.



Honorary Chairman Bill Schaubert, Harry V. Schourds, and Museum Treasurer Bob Bendler.



The Mayor of Havre de Grace and Mrs. Dougherty enjoying the evening.



Jeannie Vincenti expressing her appreciation and admiration for Madison Mitchell.



Red Head Drakes carved and donated by Charlie Joiner, Mitchell Black Heads painted by Charlie Bryan.



Chris Rogers and Joe Knielsey previewing decoys for the lottery.



Charlie Joiner decoys purchased and donated to the Decoy Museum by Allan Fair.



Charlie Joiner receiving Award for his continued support and dedication to the Mitchell Trust.



Brad Barton working the live auction.



RMM Trust Board Member Joe Mitchell and Barbara Arendt enjoying the evening.



Items donated by Joe Mitchell.



Items donated by Joe Mitchell.



The wares of the Champion of Champions Goose Caller, Call Maker, & Outfitter Sean Mann who was our special guest for the evening.



"T-Bone" Handley hard at work selling 50/50 tickets.



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CRAIG H. DE'AN
IAN FALLON

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.

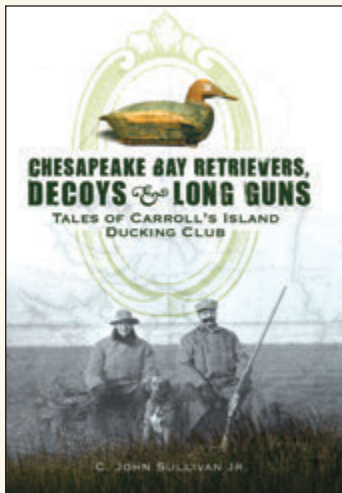
Contact Joanne Calder or Margaret Jones

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.



From the Gift Shop

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



1994 Duck Fair Honorary Chairman Clarence "Tit Bird" Bauer Autographed Envelope

A 1994 Duck Fair Honorary Chairman envelope with cancelled stamp autographed by Clarence "Tit Bird" Bauer. Very few of these autographed envelopes are available. This item is great to have if you are a collector or admirer of Tit Bird's works.

\$10.00



Decoy Magazine 1983

Featured article "Chesapeake Bay Travels; A visit with living legends"

This item is autographed by Clarence "Tit Bird" Bauer, Capt. Harry Jobs and Jim Pierce. This issue also contains a tribute to Heck Whittington and would be a unique addition to any collection. Very few of these autographed copies are available.

\$25.00



"Gunning the Flats" Print

A limited edition print created by Louis Frisino. Louis Frisino, beautifully captures the era of sinkbox hunting. This print appeals to hunters and non-hunters alike.

\$50.00 (member special \$25.00)

CHECK THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- ☐ **"Gunning the Flats" Print**
Member: \$25 \ Non-member: \$50
- ☐ **1983 Decoy Magazine** \$25
- ☐ **Chesapeake Bay Retrievers** \$25
- ☐ **Clarence "Tit Bird" Autographed Envelope** . \$10

Shipping and Handling \$5.
MD residents add 6% sales tax.

TOTAL _____

TO ORDER, FILL OUT THIS FORM AND MAIL TO:

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Havre de Grace, MD 21078

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Method of Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card

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3 digit code on back of card _____

WANTED

AUCTION ITEMS

For the Live Auction to be held
Saturday, May 2, 2009
at 5:30 pm., during the
***28th Annual Decoy
& Wildlife Art Festival***

If you have decoys that you would like to sell or donate to the museum for inclusion in the live auction, please contact the museum. If we receive the item **ON or BEFORE March 1st, 2009** your item will be photographed and included in the Festival issue of the *Canvasback* magazine. We will continue to take consignments and donations for the auction until we have reached the 100 lot limit. Any items received AFTER March 1st will not be included in the festival issue of the *Canvasback* magazine but, will be listed on the AMENDED list that will be made available as soon as the 100 lots are filled.

If you have any questions or have an item to consign or donate to the auction, please do not hesitate to call the museum Monday – Friday between 10am and 4pm at **(410) 939-3739** or email **decoymuseum@yahoo.com**



The commission rate will be 10% from the buyer and 10% from the seller. All proceeds will benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Consignments must be received by March 1, 2009 in order to be photographed for the Festival catalog.



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PRESIDENT

CARVERS!

***It's time for the
28th Annual
Decoy & Wildlife
Art Festival's
CARVING
COMPETITION
May 1, 2 & 3, 2009***

If you have works that you would like to enter in the competitions, call the Museum at **410-939-3739** and we will send you a copy of the rules and divisions.

Museum Members

Thank you to the following members and businesses that recently renewed their membership in October and November 2008. Your continued support and contributions are essential to the overall success of the Decoy Museum:

Carol Abrams	Bruce Culler	Nate Heess & Family	Bob Nickerson
Kathy & Harry Acker	Maggie & Paul Davis	Warren Hiss	Thomas O'Brien
James Aird	Phyllis & Paul Delpizzo	Allen & Patricia Jacobs	Tony Ostrowski
Charles & Nadine Anderson	Rocco & Ann DiGiovanni	Don Johnson	Scott Peach
Fred & Joan Baldwin, Jr.	Billy & Janis Edwards	Madlyn & Robert Kalinoski	Jeff Pelayo
Cal Beisswanger	Kelly-Renae Edwards	Elsie Kaste	Joe Perez
Ronald Belinko	Richard & Barbara Ensor	Ken & Kay Keetley	William Reilly
Harold & Marcia Boccia	Stephen Erb	William Kochler, Jr.	Douglas Robinson
Patricia Bowers	James & Jean Gamble	Eleanor Kunkel	Malcolm Robinson, Jr.
Bernard & Doris Brown	Robert Geist	Mr. & Mrs. Herman Lenzenweger	Philip & Beverly Ryser
Ronald Browning	Michael Gleason	John Lindauer	Michael Schleupner
Tom & Phyllis Byrne	Mason Goodpaster	Ronald Mathias	Mary Lou Southall
Paul Caldwell	Hazel & John Goodwin, Sr.	Noble Mentzer	John Stahl, Jr.
James Calwell	Patti Gray	Harry McKenry	William Thrush
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Carson	Robert Gregg	Nicholas Miele	Mrs. & Mrs. Donald Walter
Frederick Crenshaw	Brian Guerard	George & Toni Milto	W. Donald Webb
Edwin & Denise Crocker	Howard Hall	Ron Moffatt	Pat & Jerry Whited
William Cronin	Leonard & Terri Hamilton	Jeff Moore	Chris & Vivian Worch
Anna Culler	Waynette & Irvine Hayward	James Murphy	Mrs. Robert Yale

New Members

Curtis & Lee Holcombe	Dallas E Kline	Steve, Debbie, Tyler & Gabby Martinek	Catherine Miele
R. Jane Ireland	Dylan S Kline	James McClung	Robert Norris
Dallas S Kline	Matthew Kline		Robin Kyle Sebold

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



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Guests can enjoy dining in one of our dining rooms, decorated with prints and decoys of local carvers.

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Volunteer of the Year 2008 — The Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl

By Margaret Jones — photo by Frank Lee



Volunteer of the Year award presented by Madelyn Shank to Steve Martinek accepting on behalf of the Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl.

The Museum depends a great deal on volunteers. There is a lot of behind the scene activities that need to happen to keep the doors open. The volunteers leave their mark on the Museum as they go about their volunteer efforts and enjoy telling friends and family, “did you see that at the Museum, I helped make that happen.”

The Museum has volunteers who help every year just at the Festival, Duck Fair and Sporting Clay Classic. There are volunteers who come in once or twice a week to help man the telephones and greet visitors. Then there are those volunteers who we call when we have special projects or find ourselves short handed and they never hesitate to come in.

This year the Board of Directors and the staff did not have to think twice about who we would recognize as this year’s Volunteer of the Year. The Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl was honored at this year’s Anniversary Dinner with

Steve Martinek accepting the award for the organization. The Museum had a great deal of help from the Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl. Delta Waterfowl let us know that when we needed assistance we just needed to call and we did.

Thanks to this group of people the Museum was able to get the festival canvasback roadside signs repainted and put out, new Duck Fair roadside signs made and put out, new display cases put together and ground maintenance completed and a new split rail fence around the R. M. Mitchell shop. The Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl has sponsored events and continues to assist the Museum behind the scenes.

Everyone at the Museum greatly appreciates the hard work the group did for us. If you would like to know more about the Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl check out their website www.chesapeakeducks.org. ■



Anniversary Dinner Review

By Margaret Jones — photos by Frank Lee

This year's Anniversary Dinner was full of surprises as well as good food and even better company. The Bayou Restaurant once again proved why it is such a popular place to eat.

This year, Mitch Shank acted as the Master of Ceremonies. He kept things lively and fast moving. We were treated to wonderful music performed by the Havre de Grace High School Jazz Band. They played a wide variety of golden oldies and contemporary jazz pieces. The group had people up dancing. There was also a poetry reading by Larry O'Neal, a local poet. He recited a number of uplifting and thoughtful pieces. An exciting game of DECOY Bingo was played bringing out the competitive nature of bingo players.

The silent auction had a selection of unique items to bid on. Everything from an elaborately carved pumpkin to silver coins was available. Everyone went home with a new treasure. This year's Museum decoy is a golden eye. The number one decoy was bought by Ed Watts. Ed donated it back to the Museum and it is currently for sale in the gift shop. If you wanted a chance at the number one decoy in the past, here is your opportunity to get it.

The Board of Directors and the Festival Staff were proud to announce Bill Veasey as the Honorary Chairman for the 2009 Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival. As many of you know, Bill is known for his beautiful decorative carvings. Some of you may not know that he also carved contemporary decoys.

We are excited to have Bill Veasey as this year's chairman.

The board and the staff would like to thank everyone who donated items to either the live or silent auction. I would like to offer my personal thanks to those Board members and staff that assisted with the evening. The Decoy Museum is always appreciative of everyone's continued support.

The continued health and well being of the Decoy Museum is celebrated every year with excellent food, good company and fun. If you have not attended the Anniversary Dinner in the past or have not attended recently, mark your calendar now for November 7, 2009. ■



Mitch Shank, Master of Ceremonies.



Larry O'Neal, poet, reading one of his inspirational poems.



Warren & Jeanne Hiss dancing to the music of the jazz band.



Bill Veasey, 2009 Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival Chairman.



Havre de Grace High School Jazz Band and director Rick Hauf.



Capt. Harry Jobs and Mr. Harry Shourds, past honorary Chairmen.

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Saturday,
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HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM PRESENTS

5th in a series of "roasts"
**"The Roast of Mayor
Wayne Dougherty"**

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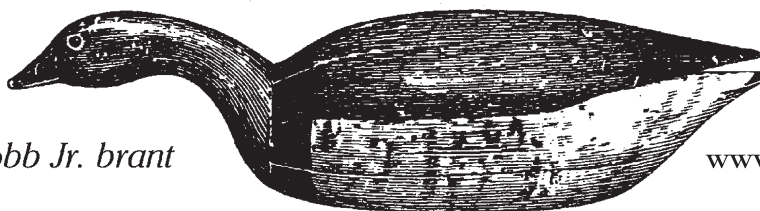
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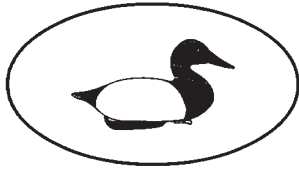
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Gift From: _____

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☐ Student (\$15)

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☐ I would like information on volunteer opportunities.

☐ I would like to make a donation of \$ _____

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Free admission to museum for member
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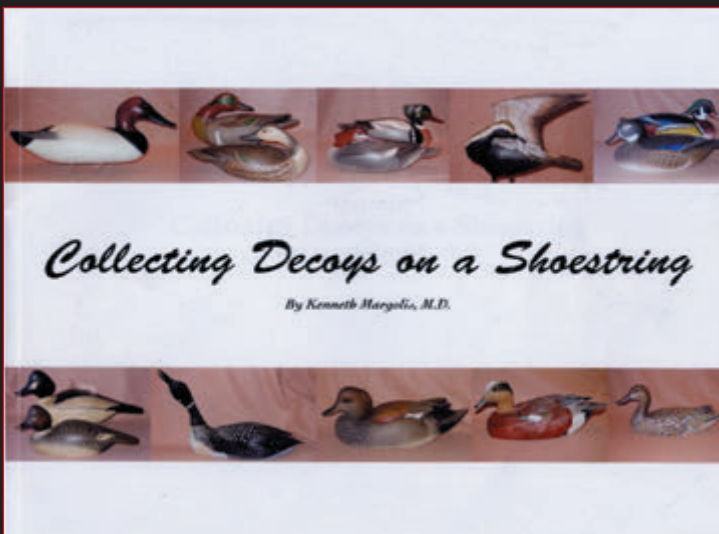
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Calendar of Events

The Ward Foundation Education Series

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

The Decoy Museum's Exhibits

Potomac Decoy Collector's Association Ruddy Duck exhibit, second floor gallery — An exhibit of Factory Decoys, donated by Dr. M. Kramer, second floor gallery — Louisiana Decoys, Library Gallery — The Magnificent Michael Bequest, An extraordinary pair of "Daddy" Holly canvasbacks, 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.

JANUARY 31ST 2009	MARCH 7TH
<p>Night Hike. 7:30 pm. Pre-registration required. All ages. Take a guided hike on our trails, then enjoy hot chocolate. Dress in layers, according to the weather. Price: Member: \$3/person/\$10/family Nonmember: \$5/\$15 Contact: Terry Hite at Phone: 410-836-3050 or Email: edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com, www.edenmill.org</p> <p>Vintage Hunting and Gun Show. 9am – 4pm with early bird special 8am – 9am.. Approximately 100 vendors featuring decoys, fishing lures, guns, ammunition, rods and reels, gun powder tins, oyster cans, sporting art and shot shell boxes. Admission is \$6.00 early bird admission is \$15. Show is located at Level Fire Hall 3633 Level Village Road, Havre de Grace, MD. Food and drinks available. Proceeds to benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and Level Fire Co. For more information contact Pat Vincenti 410-734-6238.</p>	<p>Bel Air Chocolate Festival. 10 am – 3 pm. Eighth annual event featuring samples of a wide variety of chocolate delicacies from over 20 chocolate vendors. Includes a Kids Corner with chocolate-related activities.</p> <p>Price: \$8/person; children 5 & under are free. Contact: Bel Air Downtown Alliance at Phone: 410-638-1023 or Email: ecook@downtownbelair.com www.downtownbelair.com</p>
FEBRUARY 3RD	MARCH 19TH
<p>Senior Sunrise Stroll. 7am – 9am. Pre-registration required. Ages 55+. Guided, casual, low impact, leisurely walk. Afterwards enjoy hot coffee and an activity. Price: Members: \$4 Nonmembers: \$5. Contact: Eden Mill Nature Center Phone: 410-836-3050 or Email: edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com</p>	<p>Clandestine—Contemporary Celtic Music. 7:30pm. This high-energy band presents an extraordinarily diverse repertoire firmly rooted in the Celtic tradition. Proceeds benefit the Historical Society of Harford County and the restoration of the College's Hayes-Heighe House. Price: \$17 - \$35. Contact: Harford Community College Ticket Office at Phone: 410-836-4211 or Email: culturalevents@harford.edu or www.harford.edu/cultural</p>
FEBRUARY 7TH	MARCH 21ST
<p>The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Presents the 5th in a series of "roasts." "The Roast of Havre de Grace Mayor Wayne Dougherty" is to be held at the Bulle Rock Restaurant. Tickets are \$75. Contact the museum for ticket availability. Call 410-939-3739 or Email: decoymuseum@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra Dance & Linda Molina. 7:30 pm. Join SSO & Harford County's Linda Molina for an evening of ballet & opera classics. Music of Dvorak, Sarasate, Massenet, Tchaikovsky & Kreisler. Tickets: Online-www.ticketleap.com. Outlets-Preston's or Music Land in Bel Air, Noteworthy Music-Fallston, & all branches of NBRS. Price: \$17 adult/\$15 senior citizens/\$12 students. Contact: Jan Stauffer at Phone: 410-838-6465 or Email: djstauffer@hotmail.com or www.ssochestra.org</p>
FEBRUARY 14TH TO 15TH	MARCH 21ST
<p>36th Annual California Open Wildlife Art Festival/Wildfowl & Fish Carving Competition. 150 artists and carvers from parts of the United States, Canada and Japan will compete for awards and exhibit their work at Liberty Station-NTC Promenade, Corky McMillin Event Center, 287 Dewey Road, San Diego, CA 92106. Show hours are from 9:30am to 4pm Saturday, Sunday 9am – 4pm. Sponsored by the Pacific Southwest Wildlife Arts Inc. For more information contact Bob Berry, Show Chairman, 619-588-7141 or email bobberryfishcarvings@cox.net</p>	<p>Children's Day. 11am–5pm. Maritime fun for the whole family! Learn how to tie knots, build boats, play like a sailor and other craft activities. Moon Bounce and kite flying. Price: \$10 per family of 4 (\$2 ea addtl.) \$3 for single. Contact: Ann Persson at Phone: 410-939-4800 or Email: museum@comcast.net or www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org</p>
	MARCH 29TH
	<p>Opening Weekend—Tally Ho! Noon. Horses and Hounds re-enact the 200-year-old tradition of foxhunting in Ladew's famous Hunt Scene! Price: \$2 - \$13. For more information contact: Ladew Topiary Gardens at Phone: 410-557-9570 www.LadewGardens.com</p>



Calendar of Events

APRIL 3RD AND 4TH

East Coast Decoy Collectors 11th Annual Buy-Sell-Swap. In the rooms of the St. Michael's Motor Inn (Best Western) located in St. Michael's, MD. Free decoy appraisals. Saturday plans include a late afternoon/evening meeting and cookout. For more information contact John Clayton at (410) 745-2955 or John@njdecoys.com or contact Jim Trimble at (703) 768-7264 or potomacduck@cox.net.

APRIL

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's General Membership Meeting. 2pm-5pm. Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's General Membership meeting will take place in the museum in the second floor gallery. Learn about the State of the Museum, future plans, event highlights and more. Open to the membership only. Decoy appraisals, light refreshments, door prizes. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the meeting. For more information call 410-939-3739 or email: decoymuseum@yahoo.com.



Interested in
Meeting a
Guest Carver?

Call the Museum for a
list of guest carvers.

410-939-3739

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum "Roasts"

Mayor Wayne Dougherty

Saturday, February 7, 2009

6:00 Hor d'oeuvres

7:00 Dinner and Program

Decoy Auction to follow

Bulle Rock Golf Course Restaurant

Tickets \$75.00 each

Roasters include:

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Havre de Grace City Councilman - *Fred Cullum*

The Dougherty Brothers

Parks and Recreation Director - *Karen Green*

Local Business Woman - *Mary Martin*

Local Business Man - *Frank McFadden*

City Activist - *Mitch Shank*


Civic Activist - *Diane Smith*

Havre de Grace Chamber Director - *Cathy Vincenti*

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