

The Canvasback

A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a cap and apron, is working on a wooden duck decoy in a workshop. He is using a tool to shape the wood. The background is a brick wall with a window showing some papers.

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

Summer 2009
Vol. 18 No. 3

\$7.00

Mike Smyser

*Honorary Chairman
2009 Duck Fair*

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

CAN YOU HELP?

CONSIGNMENTS NEEDED

FOR THE

DUCK FAIR LIVE AUCTION

Consignment items are needed for the **Duck Fair Live Auction** to be held on **September 12th, at 2pm.**

If you wish to place any items in the auction — please bring your items to the Museum, **between 11am and 4pm, by September 1st.**

Contact us if you have any questions;
Phone: **(410) 939-3739** — or —
email: **decoymuseum@yahoo.com**

All proceeds from the Auction will benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.



*Please
contact us if
you have any
questions
regarding the
auction.*

410-939-3739

DONATIONS NEEDED

We need Silent Auction items for the upcoming Duck Fair!

To all members of the Decoy Museum:

The Museum is going to hold its **Annual Silent Auction** during the **Duck Fair** on **Saturday, September 12, 2009.**

We will need a lot of “stuff” for the two auction periods: 10 am – Noon and 1 – 3 pm.

If you have any items that we might auction, call me at 410-939-3947 to make arrangements for me to pick them up or for you to drop them off.

Last year we cleared \$1200 and we hope to top that this year.

— *Madelyn Shank*



All proceeds from the Auction will benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.

*Please contact us if you
have any questions about
the auction.*

410-939-3947



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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www.decoymuseum.com

From the President

Dear Museum Member,

The Decoy Festival is behind us and a very successful Festival it was. The attendance was the best in several years. There will be more on the Festival by the show chairman and special events coordinator Margaret Jones.



I would like to thank the Upper Bay Chapter of Delta Waterfowl for planning "Delta Days" at the Festival. They put on a world class goose calling contest with callers from as far away as Michigan. It was a great event but a bit noisy in the Activity Center gym. Delta had outfitters from up and down the east coast: you could book a waterfowl or deer hunt, or maybe wild boar was on your list of hunts. Boats for waterfowl hunting could be looked at or even purchased. Knott Knives was at the activity center with a supply of their knives and many carving books, etc.

On May 24th, 2009, the Decoy Museum put on its Sporting Clay Shoot at Pintail Point. Captain Bill Collins chaired this event and did his usual good job. Bill will have more information on the shoot in his article.

At our October Board meeting it will be election time for Museum Board Officers. The by-laws state that the President can only serve (2) consecutive terms and must step down. Before leaving office I need to thank some people for their help. First on that list are our past Presidents. Jim Pierce was our very first President. I could call Jim or stop by his house and he always made time for me. He was one of the Founding Members and was a treasure of information. Allen Fair was the Museum's second President. After his term Allen stayed on as a board member and is the Member at Large on the Executive Committee. I could always count on his support any time it was needed. Dr. John Carriere was our third President and it was on his watch we were able to get the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum accreditation with the American Association of Museums. There were occasions I went to Doc for counsel and he would take the time to help me out. Pat Vincenti was our fourth President. Pat was very instrumental in producing the Museum decoys. He was always there with any help needed and was not afraid to open his wallet if necessary. Our past Presidents have always been at the front of the line to help the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. The past Presidents have been a resource I could lean on and I was never turned down. Thanks to all of them.

Take the time to visit the Decoy Museum and bring a friend to share all our wonders.

Sincerely,

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

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.

Clay Shoot '09 WINNERS

Museum Member Champion Bert Jackson (69)

Non-Member Champion Bill Dennis (72)

Side-by-Side Champion John Swindle (63)
Jim Burgess (61)

1st Junior Dylan Lister (63)

2nd Junior. Ty Davidson (57)

1st Lady Dee Orr (68)

2nd Lady Diane Clark (57)

1st Senior Doug Clark (68)

2nd Senior Kinsey Robinson (67)

Hard Luck Cameron Sharpless (*we won't tell*)

CLASS I

1st. Steve Warren (71)

2nd (tie) John Soistman (70)

2nd (tie) Mark Wells (70)

CLASS II

1st (tie) Allen Keller (63)

1st (tie) Richard Burnman (63)

2nd Billy Worm (62)

CLASS III

1st (tie) Chuck Wyvill (57)

1st (tie) Chip Green (57)

2nd Chris Corkell (56)

CLASS IV

1st (tie) Bonnie Strunk (45)

1st (tie) Bob Moffett (45)

2nd Eric Levison (44)



Bert Jackson was the Museum Member Champion



Dylan Lister our Junior 1st place winner.



Dee Orr our Ladies 1st place winner.



Doug Clark one of our Senior 1st place winner.



Bonnie Strunk one of our Class IV 1st place winners.



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

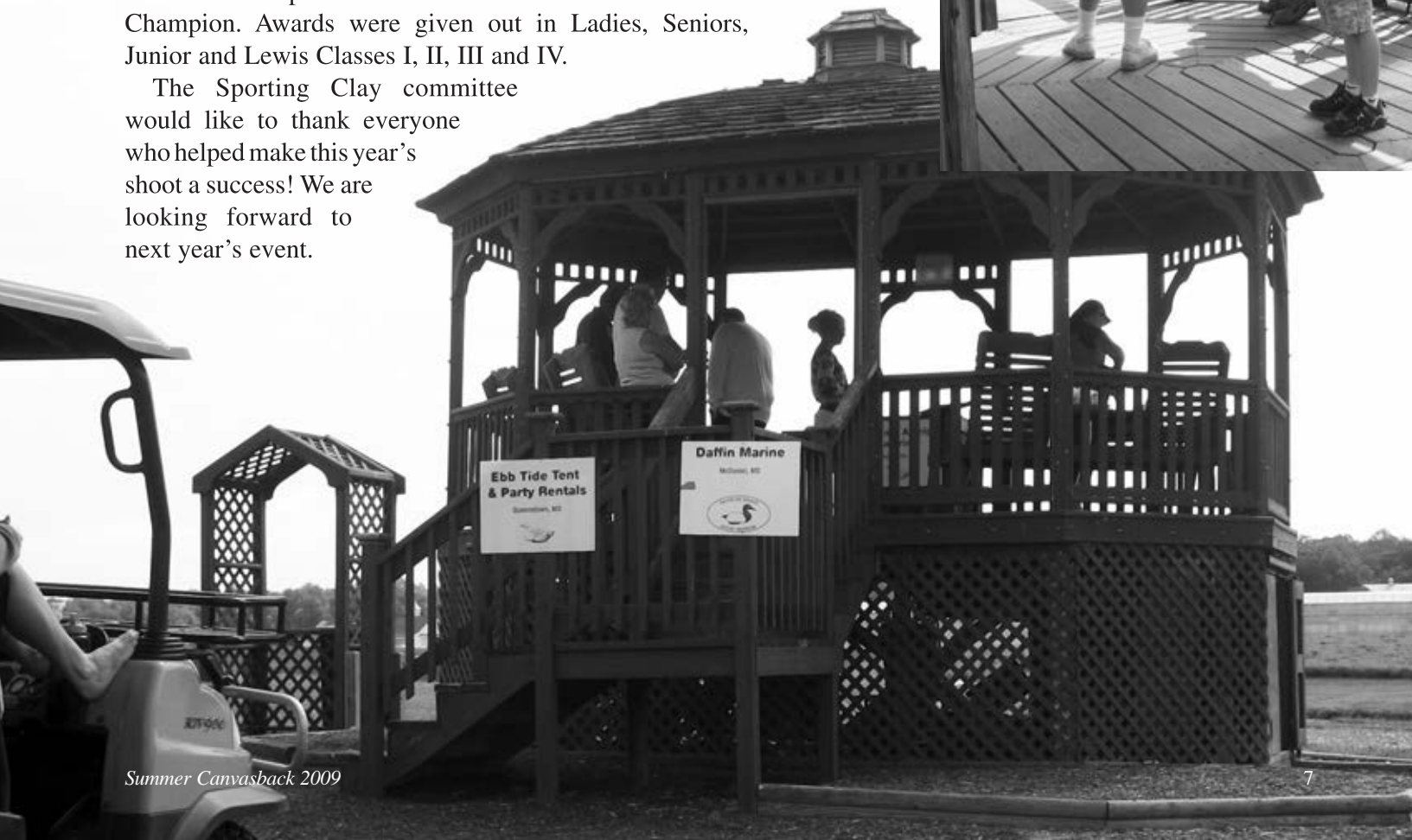
By Chairman Capt. Bill Collins

Photos by Joanne Fox

The Sporting Clay Shoot was held at Pintail Point in Queenstown. Mother Nature cooperated yet again and provided a warm sunny day with light breezes. The shooters enjoyed a challenging day, a great lunch provided by Anchors Aweigh, and good company.

For the second year in a row, Bert Jackson was the Museum Member Champion and Bill Dennis was the Non-Member Champion. Awards were given out in Ladies, Seniors, Junior and Lewis Classes I, II, III and IV.

The Sporting Clay committee would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's shoot a success! We are looking forward to next year's event.



Today vs. Yesterday

WHERE HAS THE HISTORY OF WATERFOWLING GONE?

by George Wooden

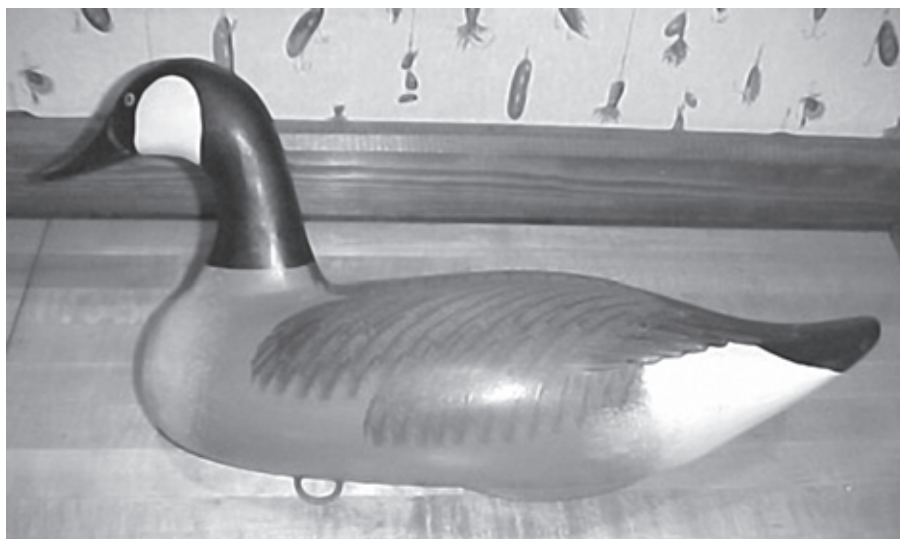
I became a waterfowler late in my life. I wasn't raised in a hunting household nor did I start at a young age. I don't have stories about hunting with my father and my grandfather, while recalling duck blind stories of yester year. I don't have memories of hunting over a set of Mitchell block's or of the good ole days of waterfowling.

As I progressed through my years of waterfowling, I learned quickly of the need for decoys. I quickly bought my first dozen, followed shortly thereafter with many more. The need grew for an entire rig of whatever bird I was hunting...be it ducks or geese. Then came the need for spinning decoys, battery and motor driven spinning wing decoys that resemble a landing duck into my spread...something I just couldn't live without.

Then, as my passion grew, so did my choice in decoys. I needed the latest and greatest, the best most life like decoy out there. Flocked head geese, bobbing feeder's, motion makers for the water and just about every big or little thing that could possibly help me bring in the birds.

But then, a few years in, my wife happened to stop by the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum one day. It just so happened to be that year's Duck Fair. During the live auction, I bought my first handcarved decoy, an antiqued Bryant Blue Bill. With that purchase, my life was about to change. A few years later, my collection has grown to include a Mitchell Black duck that my wife bought me for Christmas which is proudly displayed.

Some years later, I happened to stop in Captain Bob Jobes' shop. I introduced



myself and quickly became friends with him and his family. While talking with him, over the sound of him sanding decoys, I became entrenched into the life of the carver. A story that has volumes of names which make up the entire life of the decoy.

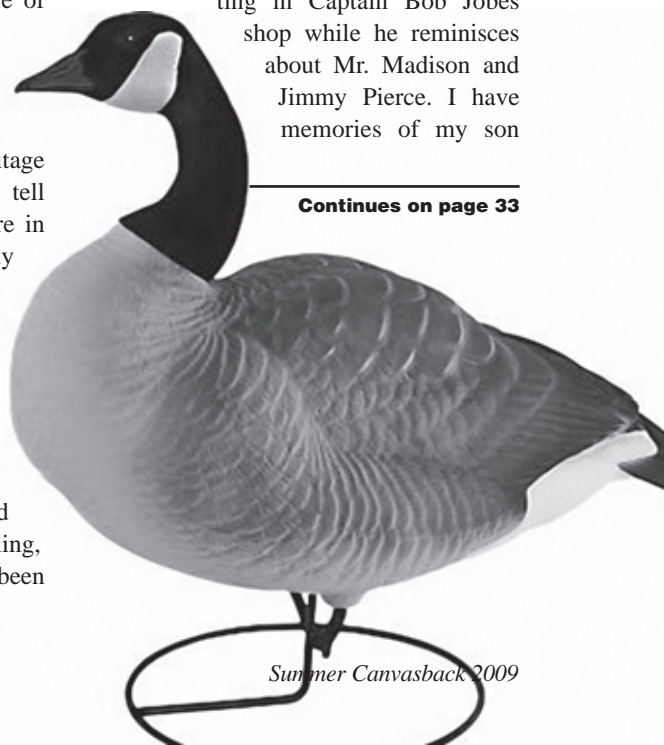
While hunting over my lifelike plastic birds, I quickly realized that there is no life behind them. There are no names attached to each, no heritage and no history. There is nothing to tell other than the purchase and the store in which they were found. Each is nearly perfect, exactly the same without imperfections. They are merely tools, tools of the hunt.

Yes, very true to all you young hunters reading this, they are much more durable, forgiving and lighter for hunters to carry. However, there is no history behind them. As the new age of waterfowling, the heritage behind waterfowling has been

forgotten with the advent of the molded plastic decoys.

Now I have my stories and memories that bring back the richness with waterfowling. I have memories of sitting in Captain Bob Jobes shop while he reminisces about Mr. Madison and Jimmy Pierce. I have memories of my son

Continues on page 33

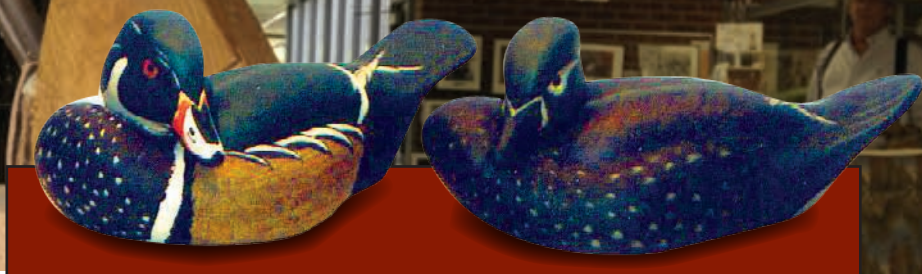




Mike Smyser

Honorary Chair, 2009 Duck Fair

In His Own Words...



As I was growing up in York County, Pennsylvania, upland hunting was a tradition in my family. Weekends were spent at field trials or hunting. With the continual reduction of farmland so went the habitat for the birds. I saw waterfowl hunting to be an obvious replacement. Time was now spent hunting on the Susquehanna River or leases in Maryland.

In 1980 I thought it would be cheaper and more authentic to make my own decoys than it would be to hunt over plastic. My first attempts were big, square, flat, and very, very ugly. From the start I went through many changes. Using old decoys I tried to imitate them with very little success. I then purchased some patterns that were of life-sized birds. These patterns gave me a feel for the duck but not something that would be useful as a decoy. After many changes I developed patterns that became my own oversized

“My first birds were made from one inch pine boards glued together.”

heads and bodies. By enlarging the bodies the decoys rode the water better, they didn't pitch and bob the way a plastic decoy would.

Just as my carving went through changes so did my painting and the materials I

was using. My first birds were made from one inch pine boards glued together. Quickly I found other types of material. I used two inch sugar pine that was hollowed and laminated together. A few cork birds were made from black refrigeration cork. Eventually I came upon a better product, tan cork and white cedar from Maine.

Though hunters have found my decoys to be very successful, I am always looking for ways to improve. Over the years I have appreciated the advice and friendship from my fellow carvers.

Through decoy making I have had the opportunity to travel to a variety of decoy shows. I have competed and displayed my decoys at the Havre de Grace Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival since 1982. I enjoy demonstrating at the shows because it gives me the opportunity to share our craft and encourage others, especially children, to try carving decoys on their own. ■

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

28th Annual Decoy Festival Auction Results

Buyers' and sellers' premiums from this event benefit the Decoy Museum.

LOT #	SALE PRICE	DESCRIPTION
1	\$75.00	Mallard Hen by "Titbird" Bauer
2	\$150.00	Canvasback Hen by Paul Gibson
3	\$50.00	Canvasback Drake by Joe Cook
4a&b	\$90.00	Goldeneye Pair by Bryon Bodt
5	\$160.00	Canada Goose by Harry Jobes, 1977
6	\$40.00	Canvas Canada Goose by Frank Muller
7	\$30.00	Canvasback Hen, branded RRJ
8	\$200.00	Decorative Canvasback Drake by R Madison Mitchell, signed & dated
9	\$500.00	Cast Bronze Teals on leather hanger by Christopher Smith 13 of 24
10	\$40.00	Miniature Canada Goose by Dave Walker 1981
11	\$30.00	Patriotic Canvasback by Vernon Bryant
12a&b	\$80.00	Blue-winged Teal Pair by Bryon Bodt
13	\$30.00	Canvasback Drake by Steve Lay
14	\$60.00	Goldeneye Drake by Mike Dedekin
15	\$90.00	Coot by John Clark c. 1989
16	\$40.00	Ruddy Duck Drake by Bryon Bodt 1989
17	\$80.00	Canvas Swan by Frank Muller
18	\$60.00	Canvasback Hen by Pat Vincenti c. 1991

LOT #	SALE PRICE	DESCRIPTION
19	\$70.00	Coot with turned head by John Clark c 1989
Joiner	\$1,200.00	Pintail Pair by Charlie Joiner
20	\$75.00	Full Size Loon by Jim Jacobs, signed and dated 1995
21	\$70.00	Shorebird by Yingling, signed & dated
22	\$180.00	Canvasback Drake by Daddy Holly, repaint, CC Carved in bottom
23	\$200.00	Decorative Mallard Hen by R Madison Mitchell, signed & dated 1980
24	\$160.00	Wigeon Drake, Mason Factory challenge grade, restored condition
25	\$120.00	Redhead Drake by Allen Purner, original paint, signed & dated 2000
26	\$200.00	Canvasback Drake by Capt. Billy Moore, repaint, branded OO & JDB
27a&b	\$60.00	Bufflehead Pair by Bryon Bodt
28	\$60.00	Redhead Drake, Old decoy by unknown maker, repaint
29	\$40.00	Miniature Swan by Jess Urie, signed
30	\$150.00	Canvasback Drake, unknown
31	\$200.00	Mallard Drake by R Madison Mitchell, signed & dated 1951

LOT #	SALE PRICE	DESCRIPTION
32	\$190.00	Canvasback Hen by Daddy Holly
33	\$120.00	Canvasback Drake, unknown
34	\$140.00	Mallard Hen by R Madison Mitchell, signed 1962
35a&b	\$325.00	Mallard Pair by Bill Veasey, image used for show button
36	\$140.00	Canvasback Drake by Sam Barnes
37	\$130.00	Fish Carving by Allen Purner, signed on base
38	\$170.00	Black Duck by Jim Pierce, signed and branded
39a&b	\$80.00	Ruddy Duck Pair by Bryon Bodt 1988
40a&b	\$70.00	Miniature Mallard Pair by Steiner Pierce, signed
41a&b	\$130.00	Bluebill Pair by Howard Foreaker, signed
42	\$50.00	Miniature Blue-winged Teal Drake by Steiner Pierce, signed
43	\$190.00	Redhead Drake by Charles Bryan, #36 Museum Decoy
44	\$225.00	Brant by R Madison Mitchell, signed & dated 1978
45a&b	\$110.00	Canvasback Pair by Bryon Bodt, signed & dated 1989
46	\$50.00	Bufflehead Drake by Gilmore Wagoner
47a&b	\$110.00	Redhead Pair by Bryon Bodt, signed and dated 1989
48	\$60.00	Owl figure by Ernie Muehlhoff
49	\$475.00	Pair Mitchell Baldpates on wall mount plaque
50	\$20.00	Miniature Canvas Canada Goose by Don Haris, VA Beach
51	\$45.00	Miniature Loon by Walter Smith
52a&b	\$160.00	Shoveler Pair by Jeff Moore

LOT #	SALE PRICE	DESCRIPTION
53	\$80.00	Half size Mallard Drake by Walter Smith
54	\$120.00	Pintail Drake by Jeff Moore
55Coll	\$800.00	61 Piece Collection of miniatures by "Titbird" Bauer
56a&b	\$160.00	Common Merganser Pair by Walter Smith
57	\$130.00	Brant by Jim Pierce
58a&b	\$425.00	Red-Breasted Merganser Pair by Michael Afleck
59	\$110.00	Dodge Black Duck with some original paint
60	\$70.00	Old Wildfowler Black Duck
61	\$110.00	Mason Mallard Hen, 1920's professionally restored
62	\$90.00	Miniature Hen by Miles Hancock, signed and stamped
63	\$300.00	Oversize Upriver Black Duck by R Madison Mitchell c.1951
64	\$35.00	Ruddy Duck, half size
65	\$110.00	Oversize Black Duck, "Back Bay" style
66	\$50.00	Mallard Drake, Old Upper Bay, most of paint sanded off
67	\$475.00	Canada Goose by R Madison Mitchell signed & dated 1977
69	\$325.00	Canada Goose by R Madison Mitchell signed & dated 1977
70	\$100.00	3 Miniature Swans by Capt Jess Urie
71	\$35.00	Swan by David J Otwell, 1994
72	\$40.00	Miniature Swan marked "MB"
73	\$110.00	2 Swans by Dick Robinson



BY JIM TRIMBLE

For the mid-Atlantic decoy collector, the Havre de Grace show, sponsored by and for the benefit of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, signals the wind-down of the spring decoy shows. May 1–3, decoy enthusiasts converged on Havre de Grace, the self-proclaimed “Decoy Capital of the World,” to celebrate their annual Decoy Festival. This year’s Honorary Chairman was veteran carver Bill Veasey of Elkton, Maryland. He is known primarily as a quality decorative carver and carving technique teacher, who has also served on the Board of Directors of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and the Easton Waterfowl Festival. Many of us enjoyed stopping by his display in the middle school to talk

ducks and view his spectacular carvings. One piece that caught everyone’s attention was a wood duck family in natural habitat. Besides Veasey, the middle school was packed with decoy and decoy art vendors, with a good proportion of the decoy vendors carrying old birds. The middle school was also the venue for the J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest. Besides decoy vendors and the antique decoy competition, the three-day show also included carving as well as contemporary gunning rig decoy competitions.

Waterfowler Days, sponsored by Delta Waterfowl, filled the contiguous Havre de Grace Activity Center with waterfowl products, duck boats, outfitters, guides etc. This group provided seminars and demonstra-



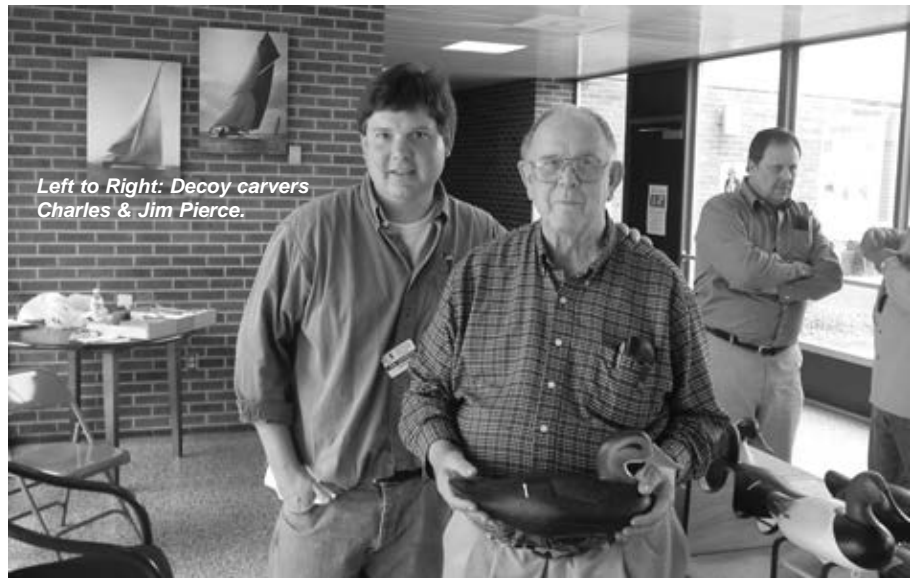
Wildlife Art Festival

Left to Right: Decoy carver Bobby Jobses & Bill Deodous



tions on everything from goose calling to retriever handling; there was even a seminar on wood duck box building. The big plus of Delta's Waterfowler Days is that it attracted additional "duck" people, many who took the time to browse and buy from the vendors in the nearby middle school building.

In the middle school, decoy vendor/historian John Sullivan had a spectacular display of upper Chesapeake Bay decoys along with photo backdrop that included many original paint decoys by many different carvers out of the famed Joel Pusey rig. There was also a good variety of wing ducks as well as many Charles Nelson Barnard hi-head canvasbacks. A Jim Holly goose was also displayed along with an early Madison Mitchell swan acting as the confidence bird. Sullivan's vendor table also had many fine examples of early upper bay decoys. We all enjoyed visiting with decoy historian Henry Fleckenstein who was a show attendee Friday evening. Chris Worch and Marshall Purner had four tables between them full of old birds. PDCA Treasurer Worch also collected dues from delinquent members and signed on two new members. Most vendors, some with a qualification of "considering economic conditions," were pleased with the show. Besides decoys, The Potomac Decoy Collectors Association table had photos and printed matter describing early gunning on the River. One show visitor, a mid-west collector who stopped by our table to examine a hi-head Jim Currier



Left to Right: Decoy carvers Charles & Jim Pierce.



Friday night reception.



Activity Center exhibitor, Knott's Knives.

canvasback from a Potomac gunning rig, explained that when his wife died several years ago, she wanted a rose on her tombstone. He went on to explain that while he was having the tombstone rose carved, he had a Currier canvasback decoy carved for his part of the headstone. He was not a Currier collector; he just liked the form of

the Chesapeake Bay canvasbacks, especially those made by Currier. He did find a Currier decoy to take home with him. Jon Frank was on hand providing decoy appraisals as well as displaying decoys for his forthcoming October auction. Joe Engers' table was stocked with *Decoy Magazine* issues that featured a wide vari-



Past Honorary Chairman signing session. Left to Right: Captain Bill Collins, Captain Harry Jobes, Jimmy Pierce.



Activity Center exhibitors, Mason Dixon Game Outfitters.



Activity Center exhibitors, Upper Chesapeake Chapter Delta Waterfowl.



Activity Center Woodduck box building session.

ety of upper Chesapeake Bay carvers, the current issue featuring a cover story on Havre de Grace carver Paul Gibson.

Jim & Clo Trimble worked again this year as festival volunteers, taking responsibility and accepting decoys for the J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest. Chad Tragakis, as in years past, worked as “duck handler” with over 80 decoys entered in this 10-category contest. Decoy judge selection is on a yearly rotation basis with collectors Eddie Deane, Nate Heess, and Burt Campbell selected to serve this year. Tragakis, Worch and Jeff Pelayo served as backup judges when judges disqualified because of decoy entry. John Sullivan won the Wooden Wing Duck category with an original paint Jim Holly bluebill in fine mellow paint. Sullivan struck again winning the Canvasback category with a fine pair of regal hi-head birds made by Charles Nelson Barnard. This pair also won Best in Show. The Upper Bay Puddle Duck category was won by Nate Heess with a unique pinch-breast mallard in fine original paint made by Jim Holly. The Standley Evans category saw many entries of fine gunning birds, but it was a mini pair of canvasbacks entered by Bill Cordrey that won the blue ribbon. Cordrey also won the Coastal Jersey/Delaware River Mallard category with a fine early carving by Bob White. The Paul Gibson category was won by Eddie Dean with original paint pintails, circa 1950s. This pair was also featured in *Decoy Magazine's* current issue cover story on Paul Gibson. A mini can hen owned by Randy Futty won the Evans McKinney category. The Mid-Bay/Eastern Shore Black Duck category was won by Dick Larrimore



Middle School Cafeteria exhibitors, Baltic Sculptures.

with a fine original paint black duck with raised primaries made by his grandfather Walter Larrimore of Annapolis, Maryland. Jim Trimble, with a fine original paint hollow Ira Hudson brant, won the Virginia Brant category. The Unknown category was won by Henry Krote with a finely carved diminutive buffelhead in swimming position. Some of these birds that have surfaced over the years have carried a Schick brand, but the maker has remained elusive. This little decoy made a strong run for Best in Show. Category winning decoys along with their ribbons will be displayed at the museum for the next several months. This old decoy competition attracted 31 collectors who entered 81 decoys.

Saturday's late day auction had a good offering. The top-dollar lot was a pair of

later Charles Joiner pintails, s&d, that hammered for \$1,250. For the second year in a row, there was a sixty some odd set of Tit-bird Bauer's matched pair minis, and they were second top-dollar lot when they hammered for \$800. There were numerous old gunners that sold in the several hundred dollar price range as did the original paint Mitchell and Bryan decoys. The auction was well organized. The auctioneer moved along at about one item per minute, and checkout was a breeze. All prices quoted are before 10% buyer's premium. Our hats off to Ed Watts, Pat Vincenti and a legion of others at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum for providing another fun packed weekend for our decoy collecting community. ■

FESTIVAL 2009

Carving Competition

RESULTS



DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE FLOATING—OPEN

Diver

Bufflehead

- 1st John Day
2nd James R. Nester
3rd Nick Barbalance
HM Nick Barbalance

Merganser, Red-breasted

- 1st Bharat Parekh
2nd William Gore

Merganser, Hooded

- 1st Merrill Timmins

Redhead

- 1st Roy Slaughter

Scaup

- 1st Edward Itter

Best of Diver

Merganser, Red-breasted

- 1st Baharat Parekh

Bufflehead

- 2nd John Day

Merganser, Red-breasted

- 3rd William Gore

Marsh

Gadwall

- 1st Steve Reiner

Shoveler

- 1st F.J. Valentino
2nd Edward Itter

Teal, Cinnamon

- 1st Andrew Speer Jr

Best of Marsh

Shoveler

- 1st F.J. Valentino

Teal, Cinnamon

- 2nd Andrew Speer Jr.

Shoveler

- 3rd Edward Itter Sr.

Goose and Confidence

Crackling Goose

- 1st David Robbins

Best of Goose and Confidence

Crackling Goose

- 1st David Robbins

Best of Show

Merganser, Red-breasted

- 1st Bharat Parekh

Bufflehead

- 2nd John Day

Merganser, Red-breasted

- 3rd William Gore

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE FLOATING—NOVICE

Goose & Confidence

Loon

- 1st Karl Yankey

Best of Goose & Confidence

Loon

- 1st Karl Yankey

Best in Show

- 1st Karl Yankey

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE FLOATING—INTERMEDIATE

Diver

Merganser, Hooded

- 1st Brian Lilly
2nd Ronald R. Janicki

Redhead

- 1st Sam Grasso

Ruddy Duck

- 1st James Drabo

Best of Diver

Merganser, Hooded

- 1st Brian Lilly

Ruddy Duck

- 2nd James Drabo

Redhead

- 3rd Sam Grasso

Marsh

Black Duck

- 1st Joe Dollard
2nd Ronald Janicki
Teal, Green-winged
1st George Buchness

Teal, Cinnamon

- 1st Joe Dollard

Best of Marsh

Black Duck

- 1st Joe Dollard

Teal, Cinnamon

- 2nd Joe Dollard

Teal, Green-winged

- 3rd George Buchness

Goose and Confidence

Loon

- 1st Ronald R. Janicki

Best of Goose and Confidence

Loon

- 1st Ronald R. Janicki

Best in Show

Black Duck

- 1st Joe Dollard

Teal, Cinnamon

- 2nd Joe Dollard

Loon

- 3rd Ronald R. Janicki

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE NON-FLOATING—OPEN

Waterfowl

Bufflehead, Flying

- 1st Bob Whiting

Wood Duck

- 2nd Warren Saunders

Shorebirds

Avocet

- 1st Paul Waicus

Upland Game Birds

Ptarmigan

- 1st Bill Bouchey

Carving Competition Results

Best of Show

Ptarmigan
1st Bill Bouchey
Avocet
2nd Paul Waicus
Bufflehead, Flying
3rd Bob Whiting

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE NON-FLOATING—NOVICE

Waterfowl

Mallard
1st Ken Guelta
Ruddy Duck
2nd Carl W. Johnson
Teal, Blue-winged
3rd Gary C. Taylor
Goldeneye
HM Ken Guelta

Shorebirds

Green Heron
1st Harvey Wilson
Heron
2nd Ron (no last name given)
Yellow Legs
3rd William Scott Belote
Eskimo Curlew
HM Heck Rice

Upland Game Birds

Pheasant, Ring-necked
1st Doug Jackson
Morning Dove
2nd Jerome Geurts
Pheasant, Ring-necked
3rd Carl W. Johnson
Quail
HM Ron (no last name)

Quail
HM Heck Rice

Birds of Prey

Saw-whet Owl
1st Harry T. Morrison III
Elf Owl
2nd George Schroeder
Saw-whet Owl
3rd Larry Tomlinso
Kestral
HM Ron (no last name)

Songbirds

Cedar Wax-wing
1st Doug Jackson

Titmouse

2nd George Schroeder
Downy Woodpecker
3rd Larry Tomlinson
Carolina Wren
HM Guy Bandy
Blue Jay
HM Susan Dorsch
Rubby Throated Hummingbird
HM Gary C. Taylor
Rubby Throated Hummingbird
HM James D. Horner
Woodpecker
HM Heck Rice
Black Capped Chikadee
HM Carl Tosi

Seabirds

1st Heck Rice

Tern

Flat Bottom Decorative
Ruddy Duck
1st Doug Jackson
Teal, Green-winged
2nd Peter Wm. Rossing
Teal, Cinnamon
3rd Peter Wm. Rossing
Wood Duck
HM Jerome Geurts
Canada Goose
HM Maurice E. Lewis

Best of Show

Cedar Wax-wing
1st Doug Jackson
Pheasant, Ring-necked
2nd Doug Jackson
Saw-whet Owl
3rd Harry T. Morrison III

DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE NON-FLOATING— INTERMEDIATE

Waterfowl

Wood Duck
1st John Alexander

Shorebirds

Killdeer Songbirds
1st Gary Stenger
Parrot
1st Hazel Goodwin

Best of Show

Parrot
1st Hazel Goodwin
Wood Duck
2nd John Alexander
Killdeer
3rd Gary Stenger

MINIATURE—OPEN

Waterfowl

Canada Goose
1st Peter Slaughter
Brant
2nd Jeff Thomas

Upland Game Birds

Turkey
1st Ronald N. Fleker

Seabirds

Penquin
1st Carol Pons Hopkins

Best of Show

Penquin
1st Carol Pons Hopkins
Canada Goose
2nd Peter Slaughter
Brant
3rd Jeff Thomas

MINIATURE—NOVICE

Waterfowl

Shoveler
1st Peter W. Rossing
Canada Goose
2nd Larry Tomlinson
Ruddy Duck
3rd Samuel Wise

Shorebirds

Egret
1st Harvey Wilson
Pelicans
2nd Harvey Wilson

Birds of Prey

Osprey
1st Henry Jacobs

Best of Show

Egret
1st Harvey Wilson

Pelican

2nd Harvey Wilson
Shoveler
3rd Peter W. Rossing

MINIATURE—INTERMEDIATE

Waterfowl

Mallard
1st Gary Stenger

Seabirds

Pelican
1st Doug Jackson
Pelican
2nd Gary Stenger
Puffins
3rd Samuel Wise

Best of Show

Pelican
1st Doug Jackson
Pelican
2nd Gary Stenger
Mallard
3rd Gary Stenger

"WHITEY FRANCK" SLICK DECOY

Diver

Canvasback
1st Dereck Fick
2nd Steve Secord
Merganser, Red-breasted
1st William Bailey
Ring Neck Duck
1st Jeff Moore
2nd Karen Hatman
Scaup
1st Mark Strohman

Best of Diver

Merganser
1st William Bailey
Scaup
2nd Mark Strohman
Ring Neck
3rd Jeff Moore

Marsh

Black Duck
1st Garrett Secord
Gadwall
1st Steve Reiner

Carving Competition Results

Mallard

1st Derek Fick

Teal, Green-winged

1st Skylar Lilly

Wood Duck

1st David Robbins

Wigeon

1st James Nester

2nd Karen Hatman

Best of Marsh

Mallard

1st Dereck Fick

Teal, Green-winged

2nd Skylar Lilly

Wigeon

3rd James R. Nester

Goose & Confidence

Brant

1st David Jack

Swan

1st Wayne Wheeler

Best of Goose & Confidence

Swan

1st Wayne Wheeler

Brant

2nd David Jack

Best in Show

Merganser

1st William Bailey

Mallard

2nd Derek Fick

Swan

3rd Wayne Wheeler

GUNNING DECOY

Diver

Bufflehead

1st Ross Smoker

2nd Ross Smoker

3rd Karl Yankey

Canvasback

1st George Root

2nd Robert Barlett

3rd Josh Ward

Goldeneye

1st James Romig

2nd Heck Rice

Merganser, Hooded

1st Heck Rice

2nd Heck Rice

Merganser, American

1st James Romig

Oldsquaw

1st Heck Rice

Redhead

1st Robert Barlett

2nd Heck Rice

3rd Lou Caputo

Ring Neck Duck

1st George Williams

2nd Brian Lilly

Ruddy Duck

1st Karl Yankey

Scaup

1st Robert Barlett

2nd Lou Caputo

3rd Jack Koenig

OTHER—HARLEQUIN

1st Ross Smoker

2nd Heck Rice

3rd Brian Lilly

Best of Diver

Canvasback

1st George Root

Merganser, Hooded

2nd Heck Rice

Goldeneye

3rd James Romig

Marsh

Black Duck

1st James Romig

2nd James Romig

3rd George Root

Gadwall

1st George Williams

Pintail

1st James Romig

2nd James Romig

3rd Heck Rice

Shoveler

1st George Williams

Teal, Green-winged

1st Heck Rice

2nd Robert Barlett

Teal, Cinnamon

1st George Williams

Wood Duck

1st George Root

2nd Heck Rice

3rd Heck Rice

Wigeon

1st James Romig

2nd Robert Barlett

3rd George Williams

Other

Chiloe Wigeon

1st George Williams

Yellow Billed Pintail

2nd George Williams

Best of Marsh

Pintail

1st James Romig

Wigeon

2nd James Romig

Black Duck / Teal

3rd James Romig

Goose & Confidence

Canada

1st Heck Rice

Brant

1st Karl Yankey

2nd Sean Casey

Other Goose

1st Ross Smoker

2nd Ross Smoker

3rd George Williams

Coot

1st Heck Rice

2nd Brian Lilly

Grebe

1st Heck Rice

2nd James Romig

OTHER—SCOTER

1st Heck Rice

Best of Goose & Confidence

1st Ross Smoker

2nd Ross Smoker

3rd Heck Rice

Best in Show

Pintail

1st James Romig

Wigeon

2nd James Romig

Goose

3rd Ross Smoker

Open Working Shorebird

1st Jay Polite

2nd Jay Polite

3rd Jay Polite

HM David Robbins

HM Jeff Thomas

HM Mark Strohmman

HM Jeff Thomas

HM Jeff Thomas

Novice Working Shorebird

1st Bob Lund

2nd Bob Lund

3rd Heck Rice

HM Lester Orsburn

HM Lester Orsburn

HM Lester Orsburn

HM Heck Rice

Best In Show

Novice Working Shorebird

1st Bob Lund

2nd Bob Lund

3rd Heck Rice

Open Working Shorebird

1st Jay Polite

2nd Jay Polite

3rd Jay Polite

DECORATIVE COCKTAIL

Teal

1st Dwinton Morgan

Canada Goose

2nd Al Wayson

Merganser, Hooded

3rd Jeff Thomas

Pintail

HM Al Wayson

GUNNING COCKTAIL

Mallard

1st Jim Haislett

Canvasback

2nd Jim Haislett

Best In Show

Teal

1st Dwinton Morgan

Canada Goose

2nd Al Wayson

Merganser, Hooded

3rd Jeff Thomas

Carving Competition Results

CONTEMPORARY ANTIQUE STYLE DECOYS

Goose & Confidence

1st William Scott Belote
2nd William Kennedy
3rd William Kennedy
HM Heck Rice

Shorebirds

1st William Scott Belote
2nd Jeff Thomas
3rd Warren Saunders

Ducks

1st Richard Belote
2nd William Kennedy
3rd Heck Rice

Best In Show

1st William Scott Belote
2nd Richard Belote
3rd William Scott Belote

YOUTH

Other

Fish
Samantha Vest
Bald Eagle
Jake Schroeder

Waterfowl

Bufflehead
1st Paul C. Rineholt
2nd Orion Soukup
Ruddy Duck
1st Orion Soukup
2nd Orion Soukup
Ring Neck
1st Olivia Dutton
Harlequin
1st Laura Dutton
Grebe
1st Skylar Lilly

Best in Show

Bufflehead
1st Paul C. Rineholt
Ruddy Duck
2nd Orion Soukup
Harlequin
3rd Laura Dutton

Best In Show Other

Fish
Samantha Vest
Bald Eagle
Jake Schroeder

RIVER GUNNING DECOY

Diver

Bufflehead
1st Jason Russell
2nd Jason Russell
3rd Christopher Hake
HM Christopher Hake
Canvasback
1st Bill Sands
2nd William Thurman
3rd Mike Smyser
HM James Romig
HM Alvin Dymowski

Goldeneye

1st Mike Smyser
2nd Mike Smyser
Merganser, American
1st James Romig
Oldsquaw
1st Mike Smyser
Redhead
1st Bill Sands
2nd William Thurman
3rd David Sikorski
HM Mike Smyser
HM William Thurman

Scaup

1st Mike Smyser
Ruddy Duck
1st Sandy Allen
2nd Bob Lund
3rd Bob Lund

Other

Goldeneye
Bob Barrow
Scoter
David Silorski

Best of Diver

Redhead
1st Bill Sands
Merganser
2nd James Romig
Goldeneye
3rd Bob Barrow

Marsh

Black Duck
1st James Romig
2nd Jason Sparks
3rd Jason Sparks
HM David Sikorski

Gadwall

1st James Romig
2nd Sandy Allen
Mallard
1st RAB
2nd William Thurman
3rd Sandy Allen
HM Bill Sands
HM David Sikorski

Pintail

1st Alvin Dymowski
2nd Mike Smyser
3rd David Sikorski

Teal, Green-winged

1st Jason Sparks
2nd Mike Smyser
3rd Alvin Dymowski
HM Alvin Dymowski

Wood Duck

1st Drew Allwein
2nd Drew Allwein
3rd William Thurman

Wigeon

1st Alvin Dymowski
2nd Mike Smyser

Best of Marsh

Gadwall
1st James Romig
Mallard
2nd RAB
Teal
3rd Jason Sparks

Goose & Confidence

Canada
1st David Sikorski
Brant
1st RAB
2nd Bob Barrow
3rd Mike Smyser
HM Sandy Allen
Other—Goose, White-fronted
1st Jason Russell
Grebe
1st James Romig

Best of Goose & Confidence

Brant
1st RAB
Canada Goose
2nd David Sikorski
Grebe
3rd James Romig

Best in Show

Redhead
1st Bill Sands
Gadwall
2nd James Romig
Brant
3rd RAB

Gunning Rig Division

1st George Williams
2nd David Sikorski
3rd Rex Prutus

FISH

Saltwater

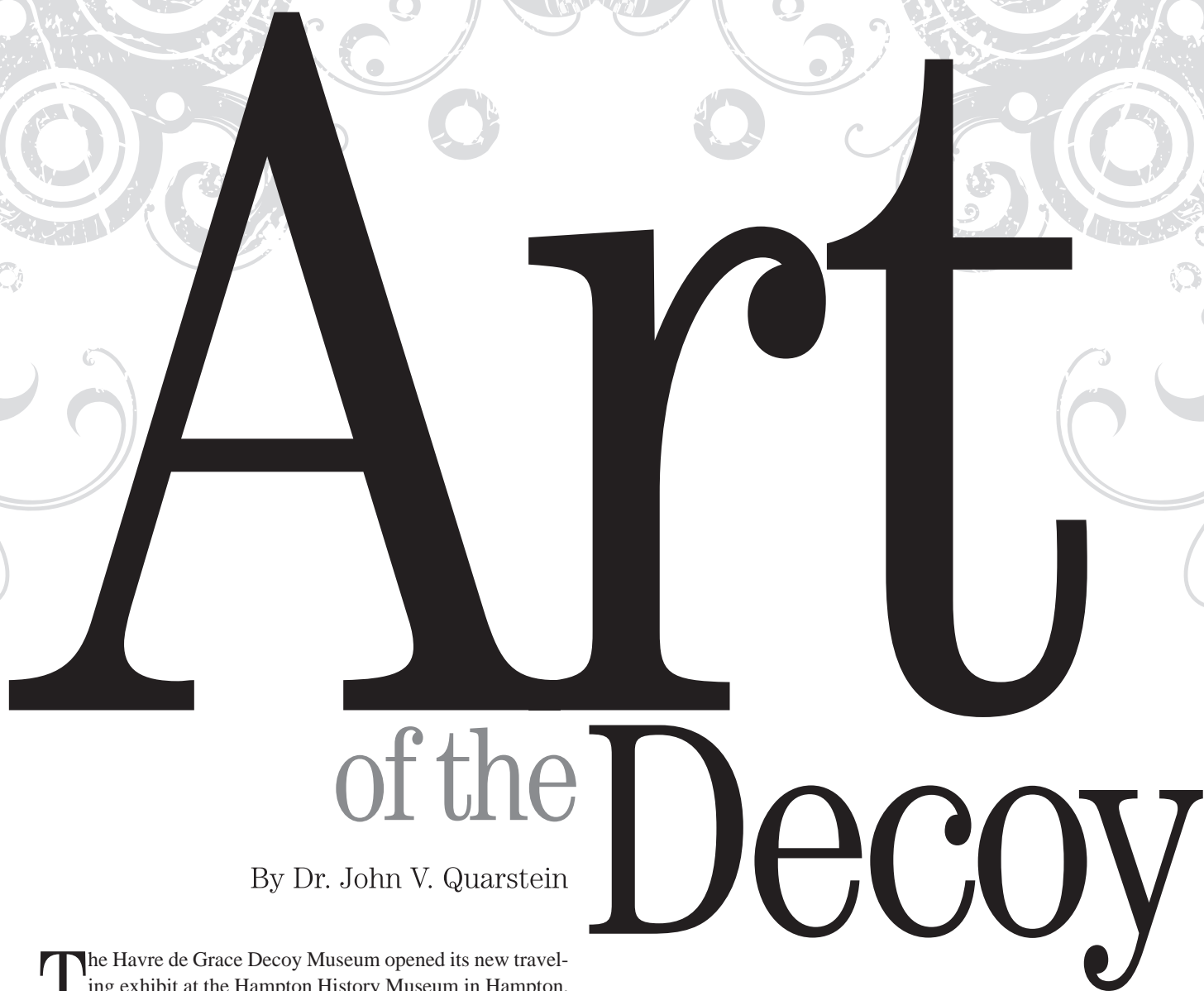
French Angel Fish
1st Sean Casey
White Perch
2nd Sean Casey

Fresh Water

Rainbow Trout
1st Ames Belote
Sun Fish
2nd Ames Belote
Small Mouth Bass
3rd Ronald N. Felker

Best of Show

French Angel Fish
1st Sean Casey
Rainbow Trout
2nd Ames Belote
White Perch
3rd Sean Casey



Art of the Decoy

By Dr. John V. Quarstein

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum opened its new traveling exhibit at the Hampton History Museum in Hampton, Virginia on February 27, 2009. The select opening was attended by over 100 museum patrons and has proven to be very popular.

The City of Hampton, Virginia is located at the end of the bay from Havre de Grace, just 18 miles from the Chesapeake capes. Hampton was founded in 1610 and is the oldest permanent English-speaking community in North America. For nearly four centuries, Hampton has played an active role in the development of our nation in times of war and peace. Of course, a community with such a rich heritage would have a museum and the City of Hampton sponsors the Hampton History Museum. Located in downtown Hampton, this museum presents 400 years of Hampton history featuring artifacts about Blackbeard, the Civil War, the seafood industry, and NASA.

Hampton's location in the lower Chesapeake Bay connects it with the great migration of waterfowl to the Chesapeake. Thousands of canvasbacks, Widgeons, Canada geese, and swans passed through the Hampton Roads en route from the Susquehanna Flats to the North Carolina sounds. Duck

blinds dotted the Back River marshes and Hampton Roads shoreline as large rafts of canvasbacks once congregated during the winter months. Hampton's Old Point Comfort Resort featured hunting excursions to its 10,000 acre preserve on the Chickahominy River. Gunners were also offered special hunting excursions from Old Point Comfort to Cobb's Station on the Eastern Shore and Knott's Island on Back Bay. President Grover Cleveland visited Hampton's Old Point Comfort Resort to enjoy the region's duck hunting and to feast upon canvasback prepared in the style of the famous hotelier and restaurateur, John Chamberlin.

Oddly, Hampton never developed a decoy industry like other Chesapeake Bay communities. Nevertheless, the Hampton Roads community has a major interest in the decoys as an American art form. Accordingly, when the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum needed to begin its traveling exhibit program, the Hampton History Museum agreed to be the first host for this display.

The 'Art of the Decoy' exhibition focuses on Chesapeake Bay decoys. The exhibit tells the story about how decoys originated with man's effort to lure waterfowl into range. Whether hunting with a net or gunning with a shotgun, decoys were a simple tool—replications of waterfowl—designed to enhance a hunter's chances; as important as his boat, blind, and firearm.

The exhibit enables patrons to reflect upon how man made his decoys to appear

alive from afar. The more a working decoy resembled nature, the more birds the hunter took home.

The waterfowl decoy is now a treasured form of folk art. Often highly sought after as collectibles, many are quite valuable. The decoys selected for the 'Art of the Decoy' traveling exhibit offer a good review of the various decoys replicated by some of the Chesapeake Bay's most outstanding carvers. Canvasbacks by Sam Barnes and Bob McGraw, Whistling Swan

by R. Madison Mitchell, Black-bellied Plover by Dave 'Umbrella' Watson, and flying canvasbacks by Charlie 'Speed' Joiner are just a few of the decoys featured within the exhibit. Considered together, these birds symbolize technology's impact on the art, environmental, social, and economic lifestyles.

'Art of the Decoy' places decoys within their historical context through the past two centuries—from a bayman's working tool, used for both market and sports hunting, to the birth of these 'floating sculpture' as American folk art. Indeed, the exhibit will share with more audiences how man has taken simple materials such as wood and captured the bird spirit in a man-made image. Decoys appeal to us today, not only as hunting devices, but also because their makers satisfied a need for expression and individuality. Through a decoy's carving and painting a treasured folk art was born. ■

Art of the Decoy



The Drifter

I'm just an old has-been decoy
No ribbons I have won.
My sides and head are full of shot
From many a blazing gun.
My home has been by the river,
Just drifting with the tide.
No roof have I had for shelter,
No one place where I could abide.

I've rocked to winter's wild fury,
I've scorched in the heat of the sun,
I've drifted and drifted and drifted,
For tides never cease to run.
I was picked up by some fool collector
Who put me up here on a shelf.
But my place is out on the river,
Where I can drift all by myself.

I want to go back to the shoreline
Where flying clouds hang
Thick and low,
And get the touch of the rain drops
And the velvety soft touch
Of the snow.

— Lem Ward, Crisfield, MD
Master Decoy Carver/Painter
(1896-1984)



The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum plans to offer this exhibit to museums throughout the nation in an effort to broaden Museum awareness and a greater national appreciation for America's decoy making traditions.



Photographs by A. Ashby Boline - Copyright © Jennifer B. Boline

Art of the Decoy

Waterfowl decoys existed for thousands of years before collectors began to appreciate the decoy as a historic art form with the potential for having aesthetic value that exceeded its functional worth.

While many decoys appeared just as simple tools of the bayman's trade, others assumed an expression of the birds themselves. The material and style do not matter. What happened in the hands of the man who made it does. When a decoy truly captures the bird in body and spirit, then we can call it art.

Decoys are the oldest and most lasting form of American folk art. Man has taken simple materials such as wood and captured the bird-spirit in a manmade image. These 'floating sculptures' continue to appeal to us today. We admire them as hunting devices, but also because their makers satisfied a natural need for expression and individuality. And so, through a decoy's making—its carving and painting—a treasured folk art was born.





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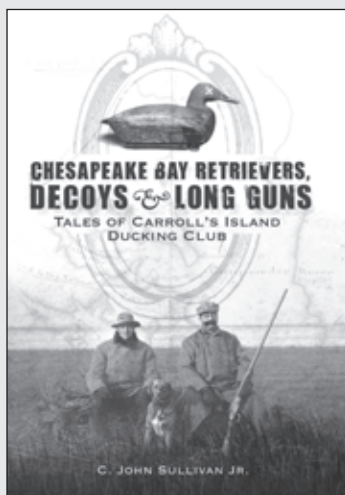
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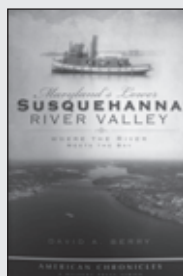
Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Decoys & Long Guns

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



◀ Maryland's Lower Susquehanna River Valley Where the River Meets the Bay

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THANK YOU

TO THE 2009 FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

by Margaret Jones

Thank you to all who volunteered at the Festival. It takes many hands to keep the show doors open. Thank you for lending your valuable time and energy to us this year. We could not have done it without you! There are plenty of volunteer opportunities at the show that only require a few hours one day. Just give me a call to find out how you can become part of the 2010 Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival.

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IN MEMORY OF *Kay Morrison*

The Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers are saddened by the loss of Kay Morrison.

Kay joined the Museum family in July of 1999 as Special Events Coordinator. This was a time of transition for the entire management team including the position of director.

Her personality and maturity were the perfect combination to help every aspect of the Museum to function smoothly. Her presence encouraged cooperation between the staff and the ever present board members that worked with her on a daily basis.

Kay's writing ability helped the Museum in many ways (ie., *The Canvasback* and writing grants). Her alma mater, Washington College, would be proud. Although Kay left the Museum in 2003 to take care of her family, she continued to volunteer her time at special events such as the Duck Fair and the Decoy Festival.

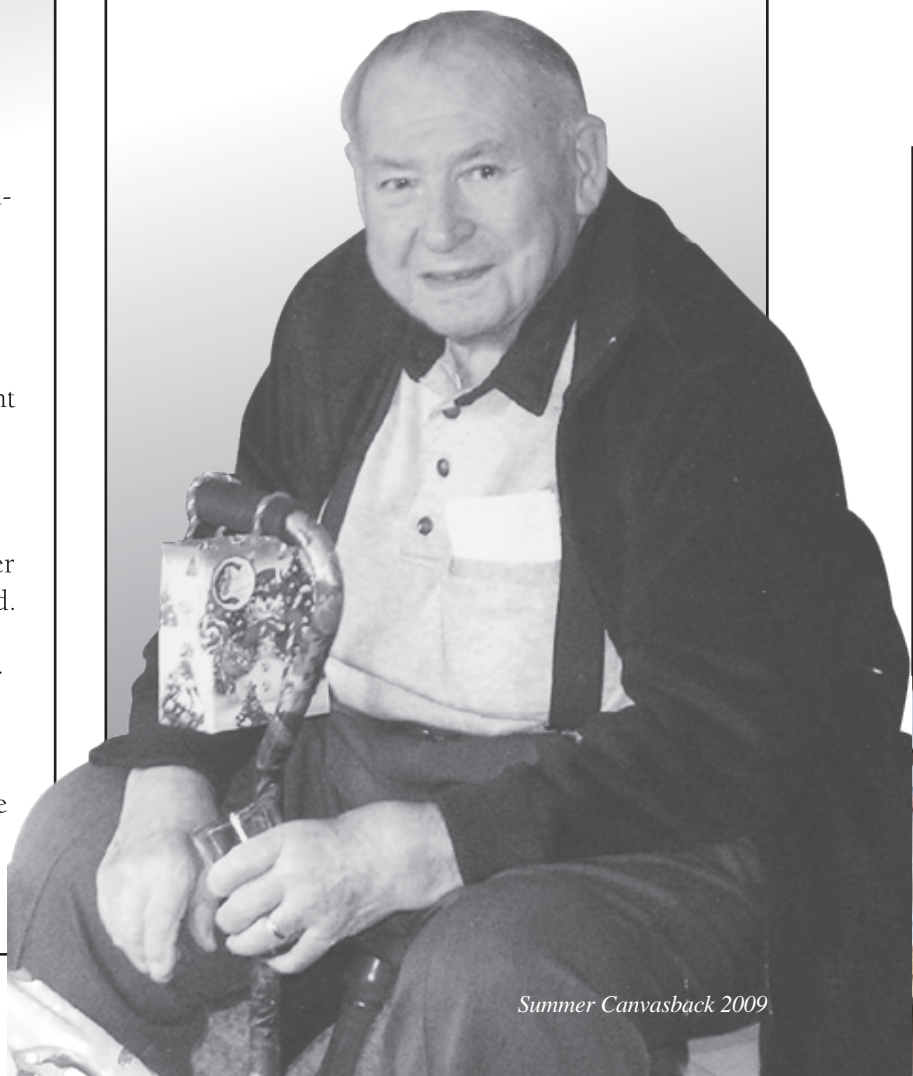
All that knew her will feel a tremendous loss. The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is much better because of her. She will be missed. ■

IN MEMORY OF *Taylor "Ted" Miller*

The officers and Board of Directors of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum express their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the late Ted Miller.

Mr. Miller passed away on April 3, 2009, at the age of 88. Ted previously served as an active member of the Board of Directors of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Living just two blocks from our Museum Ted would volunteer to work the front desk and perform other duties as needed on a moment's notice. His friendly smile, along with his love of decoys and the Museum will be missed by all those who knew and came in contact with him.

Ted is survived by his two sons Jim and Joe, as well as his two grandchildren Terran and Taylor. Terran, his oldest grandchild, later followed in her grandfather's foot steps and served on the Board of Directors for our Museum. ■



*28th Annual Decoy &
Wildlife Art Festival*

Thanks from the Festival Committee



Written by the Festival Committee
Photos by Leo Heppner and Terilyn Artworks

This year's Festival was very successful. The success was largely due to the addition of the Delta Waterfowl Days and the Delmarva DockDogs. The addition of these two events was made possible by the Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl. The Havre de Grace Activity Center was the center of attention with Hunting and Fishing Guide services, outdoor suppliers, and carving suppliers. There were seminars for hunting, carving and wood duck box making. The goose and duck calling competition created quite the noise as the many contestants took their turns.

The Delmarva DockDogs held competitions all three days. Despite the on and off heavy rains, the crowds were good. Dogs of all sizes and shapes, took leaps off the dock into the LARGE pool set up on the track at Havre de Grace High School's Harris Stadium. If you did not get a chance to see "a dog fly" you missed a fascinating time. The dogs and their handlers did a wonderful job entertaining the audience.

The Festival Committee would like to thank all the volunteers, exhibitors, vendors and especially the Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl for all their assistance with this year's show. A very special thank you goes to Honorary Chairman Bill Veasey. Bill has always been generous with his time and energy. He graciously accepted the position of Honorary Chairman and was a pleasure to work with.

If you did not attend this year's Festival, you missed out on a great deal of fun. Make sure to come next year and catch the demonstrations, dockdogs, and all the amazing exhibitors.

Next year's Festival will be held April 30th and May 1, 2, 2010. This change in the traditional timing of the Festival was done to avoid Mother's Day weekend. Mark your calendar now for April 30, May 1 & 2, 2010. ■



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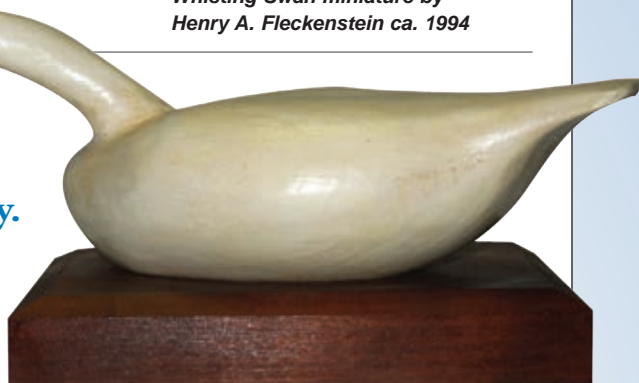
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Collector's corner

BY C. JOHN SULLIVAN

PHOTOS BY MARGARET JONES

Whisting Swan miniature by Henry A. Fleckenstein ca. 1994



How I got started BUT NOT my first decoy.



I have written and talked about my very first decoy, yes the one given to me by my maternal grandparents to save my parents' decoys that rested on the hearth of the living room fireplace. But I have never mentioned the miniature decoys that I always admired and coveted. Sitting on the built-in bookcase in my family's living room were a pair of miniature canvasback decoys. My father purchased them from R. Madison Mitchell in the 1940's. The pair were mounted on well sculpted burl walnut bases with green patterned desk blotter paper glued to each base's underside. The circa 1940 Mitchell paint was crisp, clear and bright and applied with all the skills of the master carver. Although I studied them literally hundreds of times as a youngster, they remained on the same shelf in practically the exact same location for over 30 years. To say that I coveted them as a young boy is no exaggeration. I wanted those little decoys to be on my shelves in the same exact way that I wanted the Case pocket knife that my dear Aunt Lauretta kept on her bedroom dresser, the 1941 Harford County Hunting license that stood erect on her

telephone desk in the big country kitchen, and the 410 gauge shotgun that leaned in her living room closet. My aunt and uncle also had a single miniature of the same time period and also carved by Mr. Mitchell. It was a canvasback drake mounted on a base like my parents' pair. I remember wondering why they only had a single, why its base was cherry and not walnut and why the blotter on the base of theirs was blue and not green. It sat in a place of honor on the sideboard in their dining room. I knew better than to ever express too much interest in it for fear that I would ruin the chance of it ever coming my way. The loss of loved ones, in particular a parent, is traumatic at any age, but I lost my father shortly after my seventeenth birthday. Those miniature decoys were in the living room where my

father's viewing was held just as they had been at the time of my grandfather's viewing. They were a part of the family for decades, watching both happy moments and sad moments. They were there when we gathered around the fireplace during the great blizzard of 1958. That massive snow storm left us without electricity for 10 days. My mother gave me those little birds when my wife and I bought Bon Air in 1976. They were joined in 1983 by the single miniature canvasback drake that I inherited from my dear Aunt at her pass-



Miniature Canvasback carver Unknown

Miniature pair of Canvasbacks by R. Madison Mitchell ca. 1940

Collector's corner

ing. Those miniatures were joined over the years by many others, becoming part of an ever growing number of miniatures.

I have miniatures from the Upper Chesapeake region as well as down the Bay. They are a fascinating part of the great waterfowling history of the Chesapeake Bay. I have always felt that they were created for a variety of reasons but most importantly they typically exhibit the best carving skills of the maker and the best painting that their maker was capable of executing. They are some of the earliest decorative decoy carvings ever made. When carved, the maker knew that his miniatures were to be placed on a mantle piece, on a shelf or in some other place of honor. Knowing that not just the live fowl and the hunter would be looking at them, he most certainly took extra care and extra time in carving and painting them. If you are a new collector or a long time collector, miniatures are still available, there are contemporary carvers still creating these delightful diminutive birds and historic ones can still be found in excellent condition. Consider enhancing your old or new decoy collection with some of these masterpieces in miniature. ■

*Miniature Swan Pair by
Robert F. McGaw ca. 1936*



Today vs. Yesterday Continued from page 8

Georgie and I talking with Pat Vincenti and Bill Collins while they sat and painted ducks. In fact, that memory is burned deeply in my mind. As if I rose out of my body for a second, I saw that picture from behind me. I saw the photograph of us four. Pat on the right in front of me, painting a golden eye while laughing at some really bad jokes and Bill painting the base coat. Bill not saying much over the sound of oldies playing on the radio and Georgie sitting on the floor next to me on the floor in the foreground.

No longer with these new fangled decoys are there the memories of the maker. Of paint covered Khaki trousers and white T-shirts, the odor of painted bird drying on the racks and saw dust and draw knives. There isn't the story of how the lathe changed carving. The nexus between these two tools of waterfowling has drifted away.

But now, at 43 years old, I have those memories that I recall each and every time I venture out to the Flats. I remember sitting in Bob's shop with his crab traps stacked outside. I remember talking with Pat with his pictures displayed neatly beside him. I can recount the stories that I have been told about Mr. Mitchell and the carvers that have passed. I count the carvers of today as my friends, who have carved their names into my son's memory. He now, at 13 years old, has memories of waterfowling. He has the stories that I do not.

As the waterfowlers of today, we must remember that our passion has a past. A rich deep heritage that transcends a few days or even a few years ago. A history that has formed what we prize each fall and winter. And the key to remembering that history can be found in seeing the brush strokes on hand carved and hand painted decoys. Of knowing who carved these birds of knowing them personally. These men have stories to tell, stories of today versus the yesterday of waterfowling and the art of the decoy.

So, in closing, my waterfowling life is full now because I know where we came from and the heritage behind it all. All thanks to the Havre de Grace Decoy Carvers. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**New Dates Announced
for the
2010 Decoy Festival.**

April 30th, May 1 & 2, 2010

FESTIVAL 2009 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Festival Chairman	Patrick Vincenti	Middle School Coordinator	Anthony Bess
Festival Coordinator	Margaret Jones	Havre de Grace High School—Harris Stadium Security	Senora Haywood
Museum Consultant	John Quarstein		Havre de Grace Police Department
Museum Curator	John Quarstein	Exhibitor Breakfast	Jeannie Vincenti
Live Auction	Mindy Elledge	Autograph Session	Madelyn M. Shank
Auctioneer	Howie Travers	Food & Beverage Service	Bill Correll
Volunteer Coordinator	Madelyn M. Shank		Bottomless Cup
Marketing	Margaret Jones		Bill Bateman's
Information Tables	Mert Street Allen Fair	Mitchell Shop	Frank Muller
Hospitality Rooms	Margaret Jones	Exhibitor & Sponsor Reception	MacGregor's Restaurant Patrick & Jeannie Vincenti
Finances	Mindy Elledge	Special Programs	Delta Waterfowl Delmarva Dockdogs Gunpowder Chapter of Ducks Unlimited
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Just Mallards *by Margaret Jones*

On Saturday, May 30, Chad Tragakis installed the latest in the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association's revolving exhibits. The ruddy ducks have gone home to roost with their individual collectors and the mallards have arrived.

We take the ubiquitous (constantly encountered, widespread) mallard for granted, so displaying a large collection of them has not been considered before. But this collection contains some really rare birds which are worth seeing. I don't even want to give you a preview of the exhibit. You have to see it for yourself.

According to Chad, this is probably the largest collection of mallard decoys ever on exhibit. It was a delight to watch Chad's excitement over the contributions from his fellow PDCA members and to watch him almost reverently put each decoy in place.

The exhibit is scheduled to remain until after the 2010 Decoy Festival. Our thanks to Chad and the Potomac Decoy Collectors for sharing their decoys with us.

Don't Miss This Exhibit!

We Need Your Help

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is trying to enter the 21st century.

We would like to be able to get information to our members and friends in "real time." Even though there is a place on the membership form for e-mail address, we rarely get any back. Since life and charter members never get a renewal form, we don't have any way of obtaining that information from them.

So...please share your e-mail address with us. We will not give this information out to any other organizations and you can be removed from the list at any time. You can update your e-mail by e-mailing Mindy at mllelledge@verizon.net.

We understand that not everyone has an e-mail address. Not to worry! We will still get information out to you.

Peggy Cecchine
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
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Thank you to the following members and businesses that recently renewed their membership in April, May and June. Your continued support and contributions are essential to the overall success of the Decoy Museum:

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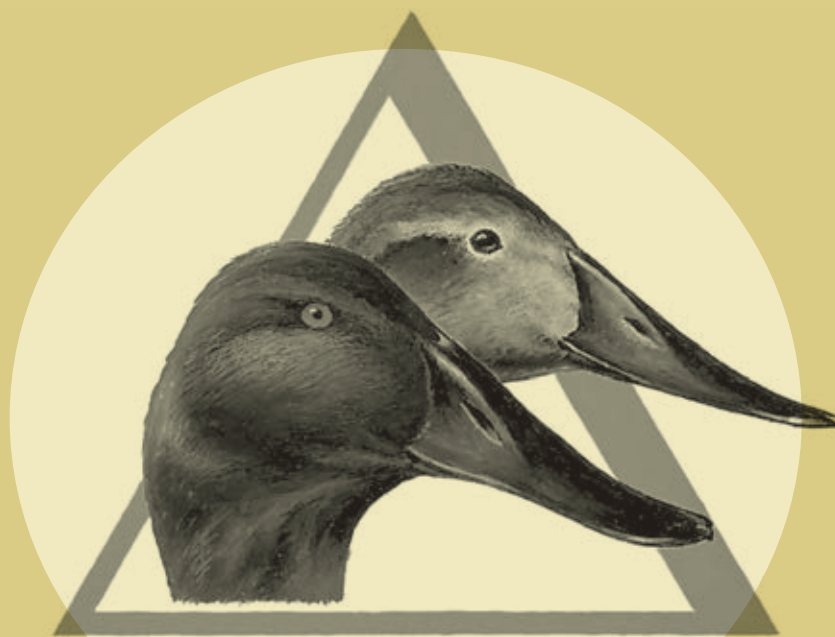
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Life Members

Randy Edwards
George Williams

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



DELTA WATERFOWL

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's Second Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, September 11th, 2009

Shotgun Start: 8:30 a.m.
Registration starts at 7:30 a.m.

Registration: \$400 per team of four

Prizes: Many including a chance to win a car for a hole-in-one

Lunch provided at 1:00 p.m.

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For more information call the museum 410-939-3739.



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 Mallard 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

Tour Reservations

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

AUGUST 1	AUGUST 29
Annual Havre de Grace 5K Race for the Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum. 8:00 am. Race along the historic streets of Havre de Grace and level trails along the river. Custom awards. For more information contact the Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum at 410-939-5780 or Email: director@lockhousemuseum.org or visit their website: http://www.lockhousemuseum.org	FARMERS' MARKET sponsored by HdG Main Street, Inc. 9am–12 noon. Selling fruits, vegetables, honey, baked goods, fresh flowers and potted plants. Contact: Main Street, Inc. at 410-939-1811 or email: hdgmainstreet@verizon.net or visit: www.mainstreethdg.org
AUGUST 7	SEPTEMBER 4
FIRST FRIDAYS sponsored by HdG Main Street, Inc.. 5:00pm–9:00pm. A fun-filled evening of free music in beautiful downtown Havre de Grace. For more information contact: Havre de Grace, Main Street, Inc., Bill Price at 410-939-1811 or Email: hdgmainstreet@verizon.net or visit their website: http://www.mainstreethdg.org	FIRST FRIDAYS sponsored by HdG Main Street, Inc. 5pm – 9pm. A fun-filled evening of free music in beautiful downtown Havre de Grace. For more information contact: Havre de Grace Main Street, Inc., Bill Price at 410-939-1811 or email: hdgmainstreet@verizon.net or visit: http://www.mainstreethdg.org
AUGUST 8 — 9	SEPTEMBER 5
29th Annual Havre de Grace Seafood Festival. Saturday, August 8, 11am–7pm; Sunday August 9, 11am–6pm Millard E. Tydings Park; Annual event with seafood delicacies from region & beyond; free entertainment, artisans, crafters, and retail vendors. For more information contact: Lori Maslin at 410-939-1525 or Email: seafoodfes@aol.com or visit their website: http://www.hdgseafoodFestival.org	Friends of Concord Point Lighthouse, Inc. Presents: Fall Flower Sale & Flea Market 9:00 am. Come to the grounds of the Lighthouse Keepers Dwelling at the corner of Concord and Lafayette Streets for a wonderful selection of fall flowers and flea market items. For more information contact: 410-939-3213 or 410-939-5949 or mail: directorcpt@verizon.net FARMERS' MARKET sponsored by HdG Main Street, Inc. 9am–12 noon. Selling fruits, vegetables, honey, baked goods, fresh flowers and potted plants. For more information contact: Main Street, Inc. at 410-939-1811 or email: hdgmainstreet@verizon.net or visit: www.mainstreethdg.org
AUGUST 15 — 16	SEPTEMBER 12
46th Annual Havre de Grace Art Show. 10am–5pm. Tydings Park; Presented by the Soroptimist International, over 250 artists and crafters from throughout the U.S. display and sell work. Food and entertainment all weekend. Free shuttle from designated parking to the show, downtown, and attractions. Boat accessible; Sat. and Sun. For more information contact: Cindy Height at 410-939-9342 or Email: hdgartshow@hotmail.com	HdG Arts Commission's 21st Children's Arts Festival at Millard E. Tydings Park 10am–2pm. 21st Annual Children's Arts Festival for kids under 12 yrs. Entertainment, hands-on arts & crafts and Children's Art Contest. Admission is \$5/child. For more information contact: Ruth Hendrickson or Mary Boehly at 410-272-5516 or 410-939-8518 or you can email: RRHEN@aol.com or boehlyofhdg@earthlink.net Havre de Grace Decoy Museum: 22nd Annual Duck Fair 9am–4pm. Carvers and wildlife artists displaying and selling their works. A live auction, silent auction, bake sale, children's activities and Retriever dog demonstrations. Great family fun. For more information contact the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum at 410-939-3739 or email: decoymuseum@yahoo.com or visit: http://www.decoymuseum.com
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Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 12	OCTOBER 2
FARMERS' MARKET sponsored by HdG Main Street, Inc. 9am–12noon. Selling fruits, vegetables, honey, baked goods, fresh flowers and potted plants. For more information contact: Main Street, Inc. at 410-939-1811 or email: hdgmainstreet@verizon.net or visit www.mainstreethdg.org	FIRST FRIDAYS sponsored by HdG Main Street, Inc. 5:00pm – 9:00pm A fun-filled evening of free music in beautiful downtown Havre de Grace. For more information contact: Havre de Grace Main Street, Inc., Bill Price at 410-939-1811 or email: hdgmainstreet@verizon.net or visit: http://www.mainstreethdg.org
SEPTEMBER 19	OCTOBER 3
Guided Nature and Historical Walk of the North Park Trail. 10am Free to public. Approximately one hour. Meet at the Lock House of the Susquehanna Museum. For more information contact: Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum at 410-939-5780 or email: director@lockhousemuseum.org or visit www.lockhousemuseum.org .	All Maryland Reptile Show. 9:00am–3:00pm. Come to the Havre de Grace Community Center at 100 Lagaret Lane in HdG to see reptiles of all shapes and sizes. Admission is \$7.00 Adults, \$3.00 Children 2-6. For more information contact: 717-432-5807 or visit: www.mdreptilefarm.com/shows/md/allmd/asp
SEPTEMBER 19 — 20	OCTOBER 10
City-wide Yard Sale! 8:00am–1:00pm For YARD SALE Lovers far & wide... Come to Havre de Grace to enjoy our yard sale extravaganza! Read Ron Browning's column in The Record for site locations. (If you want to be a part of the City-wide Yard Sale, just call 410-939-2100 and we'll add your address to the list...and It's FREE) For more information contact: Ron Browning & HdG Office of Tourism at 410-939-2100 or email: brigitteL@havredegracemd.com or visit: www.hdgtourism.com 7th Annual Maryland Lighthouse Challenge. Our very own Concord Point Lighthouse is one of the stops on the 7th Annual Maryland Lighthouse Challenge. Start your adventure with us! For more information contact 410-939-3213 or 410-939-5949 or email: directorcpt@verizon.net	FARMERS' MARKET sponsored by HdG Main Street, Inc. 9am–12noon Selling fruits, vegetables, honey, baked goods, fresh flowers and potted plants. For more information contact: Main Street, Inc. at 410-939-1811 or email: hdgmainstreet@verizon.net or visit: www.mainstreethdg.org
SEPTEMBER 19	OCTOBER 16
Havre de Grace Maritime Museum Presents: Wooden Canoe Rendezvous. 10am–5pm. Show off your wooden canoe along with our own Chesapeake Wooden Boat Builders. Demonstrations and antique canoe identifications! Price: FREE. For more information contact Ann Persson at 410-939-4800 or mail: museum@comcast.net or visit: www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org	Havre de Grace Chamber of Commerce's Bull & Oyster Roast. 7:00–11:00pm. Come enjoy pit beef, oysters, salads, desserts, beer, soda and more! Auctions! Games! DJ Music! Price: \$40. per person For information contact: Cathy Vincenti at 410-939-3303 or email: hdgchamber1@comcast.net or visit www.hdgchamber1@comcast.net
SEPTEMBER 26— 27	OCTOBER 24
Steppingstone Farm Museum: Fall Harvest Festival and Craft Show. 11am–5pm. Scarecrow making, pumpkin painting, hay rides and straw maze, apple bobbing and pressing, crafts, clowns, country music, clogging and square dancing, food, and tours. Price: \$5.00 Adults, (kids under 12/members FREE) For more information contact: Linda M. Noll at 410-939-2299 or 888-419-1762 or email: steppingstonemuseum@msn.com or visit: http://www.steppingstonemuseum.org	Spirit Walk of Angel Hill Cemetery. 6:00pm. Meet interesting residents of Angel Hill Cemetery, listen to their stories, hear about their ends on this hour long walk. Check our website for details. Admission is \$10 per person. For more information contact: Gary Wasielewski at 410-939-5780 or email: director@lockhousemuseum.org or visit www.lockhousemuseum.org Havre de Grace Maritime Museum Presents: BOO-Seum and Bat Ball 11–5 and 6–8pm. Bat Ball: \$10. per family of four (\$2. each additional or \$3. for single admission) Children under 3 Free. Come to the Boo-seum for fall harvest fun and Halloween Happenings. During the day, learn all about bats; at night, come back to the Bat Ball with games and refreshments, costume prizes. For more information contact: Ann Persson at 410-939-4800 or email: museum@comcast.net or visit: www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org .



331 Saint John St.
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410.939.3003 | 800.300.6319



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Daily Specials!