

The Canvasback Spring 2010 \$10.00 Vol. 19 No. 2 David Walke 2010 HONORARY CHAIRMAN

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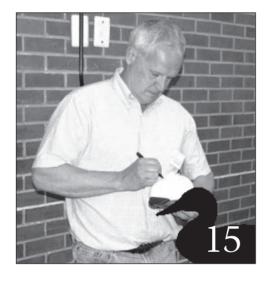
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HAVRE DE GRACE



DECOY MUSEUM

can•vas•back (kan'ves bak'), *n.,pl.* **-backs**, (esp. collectively) **- back. 1.** A north American wild duck, the male of which has a whitish back and a reddish-brown head and neck. **2.** A style of decoy made famous by carvers of the Susquehanna Flats region. **3.** A quarterly publication of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.



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ON THE COVER



David Walker, 2010 Honorary Chairman

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Havre de Grace Decoy Museum 215 Giles Street Havre de Grace, MD 21078 (410) 939-3739

www.decoymuseum.com

From the President

Dear Museum Member,

All of us at the Decoy Museum are very busy preparing for the upcoming 29th Annual Decoy and Wildlife Festival. The staff volunteers and directors are looking at



Photo by Leo Hepner

every aspect of the event to make it the best it can be. We want your visit to the Decoy Festival and the City of Havre de Grace to be as pleasant and enjoyable as possible. Also, we realize that this is the largest fundraiser the Decoy Museum will host each year and we need it to be a profitable one.

We need to point out that none of this is possible without the dedication of many strong volunteers. The Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl, led by George Wooden and Jerry Rutkowski, have been instrumental and dedicated to reaching out to the young waterfowler as well as the seasoned veteran to promote the Upper Chesapeake's water fowling heritage and legacy.

Also, it is important to point out all the work and coordination that Jim and Clo Trimble bring to the Old Decoy Contest. This year Allan Schauber will be setting up a display of

Wildfowler Decoy Company decoys from his personal collection in our Artifact section.

At this time it is my pleasure to report to our membership that our Museum, the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, is once again debt free! We have received a gift from the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust in the amount of \$37,486.74. These funds were used to pay the remaining balance on the Exhibits renovations from 2007. We also want to recognize and thank Chuck and Lynn Usilton (SFVCS) and their group of volunteers for their donation and continued support.

The Executive Committee is now in a position to start the Executive Director Search process. As this moves forward more information will be available. Thank you for your continued support and please remember that none of this Museum's success is possible without YOU. See you at the Decoy Festival.

Sincerely.

Pat Vincenti

Funded in Part By:

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

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

Spring Canvasback 2010 5

Unicent



April 30 May 1-2

Whitey Frank Decorative Slick Division

Locations

Friday April 30

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, Giles Street (DM) Havre de Grace Middle School, Lewis Street (MS) Havre de Grace Activity Center, Lewis Street (AC) Havre de Grace High School, Harris Stadium (HS)

2010 Honorary Chairman Dave Walker

Admission: \$6.00 per day. \$10.00 for weekend pass. Children under 12 are admitted free with an adult.

rriday, riprii 00
6:00 – 9:00 p.m
6:00 – 8:00 p.m Carving Competition Registration \mathcal{AC}
Saturday, May 1
Additional activities at the Havre de Grace Activity Center throughout the weekend, check posted schedules around venues for more information.
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m
9:00 a.m. Delta Dogs Chesapeake Challenge Registration—ongoing events 9am-4:30pm HS
9:00 a.m. Outdoor Hunting Show Delta Waterfowl Days—ongoing events, see posted schedules around venues.
AC
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m Silent Auction <i>MS - cafeteria</i>

10:30 a.m. Atlantic Flyway Classic Carving

Decorative L/S Floating Division

Decorative L/S Non-Floating Division

Decorative Miniature Division

HdG Activity Center

Competition Judging

Decorative L/S Fish Division Youth Gunning Division — Sponsored by Foredom Electric Co. Cocktail Division Shorebird Division Carving Competitions sponsored by **PNC Bank** 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Past Honorary Chairmen **Autograph Signing Session** MS — outside Media Center 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Silent Auctions MS Cafeteria 1:00 p.m.....Gunning Rig Division DM Grounds **Carving Competitions sponsored by PNC Bank** 1:00 p.m..... Old Decoy Contest MS Stage 1:00 p.m. Live Auction Preview AC Gym 4:00 p.m. Live Auction Bidder Registration AC Gym 5:30 p.m.Live Decoy Auction AC Gym



CONTINUED

THANK YOU TO THE 2010 FESTIVAL SPONSORS

Sunday, May 2

Additional activities at the Havre de Grace Activity Center and at the Havre de Grace High School Harris Stadium throughout the weekend, check posted schedules around venues for more information.

10:00 a.m Delta Dogs Chesapeake Challenge
Registration — ongoing events, 10am – 3:30pm
HS
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m
10:00 a.m Outdoor Hunting Show

Delta Waterfowl Days — ongoing events, see posted schedules around venues.

AC

10:30 a.m. Gunning Decoy Division

DM Grounds

11:00 a.m. River Gunning Division

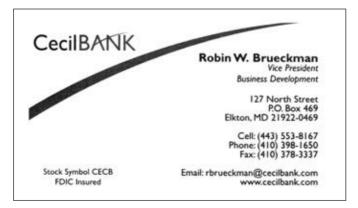
DM Grounds

Carving Competitions sponsored by PNC Bank

3:30 p.m. Festival Raffle Drawing

MS Lobby

4:00 p.m. Festival Closes

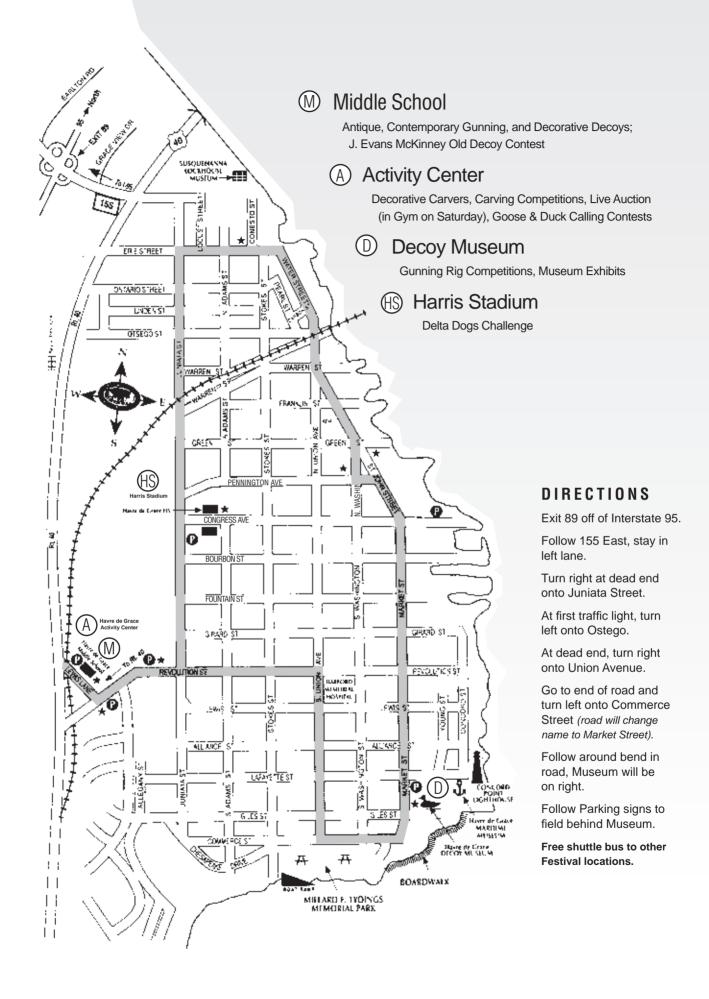


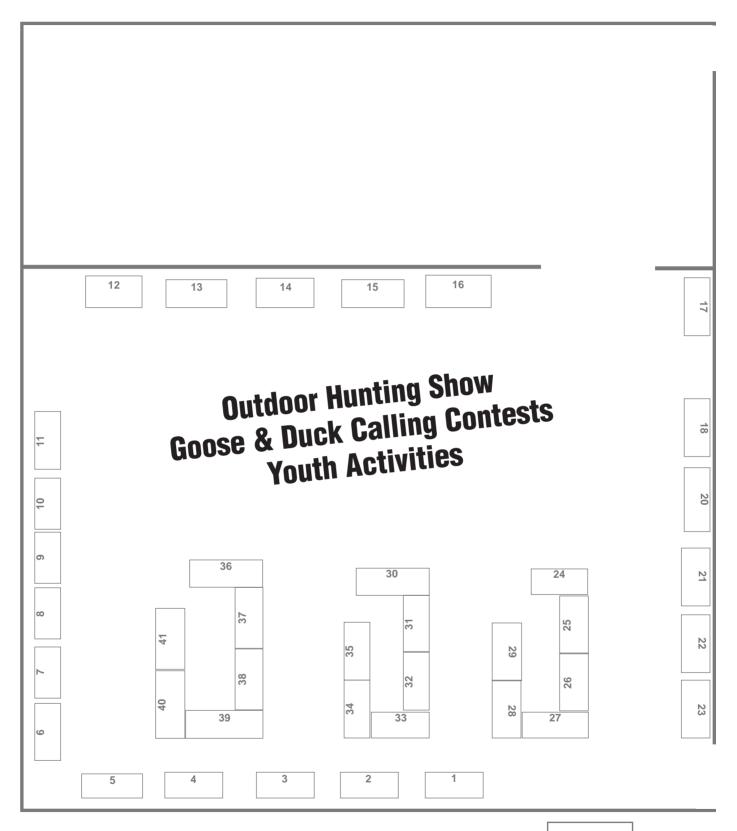
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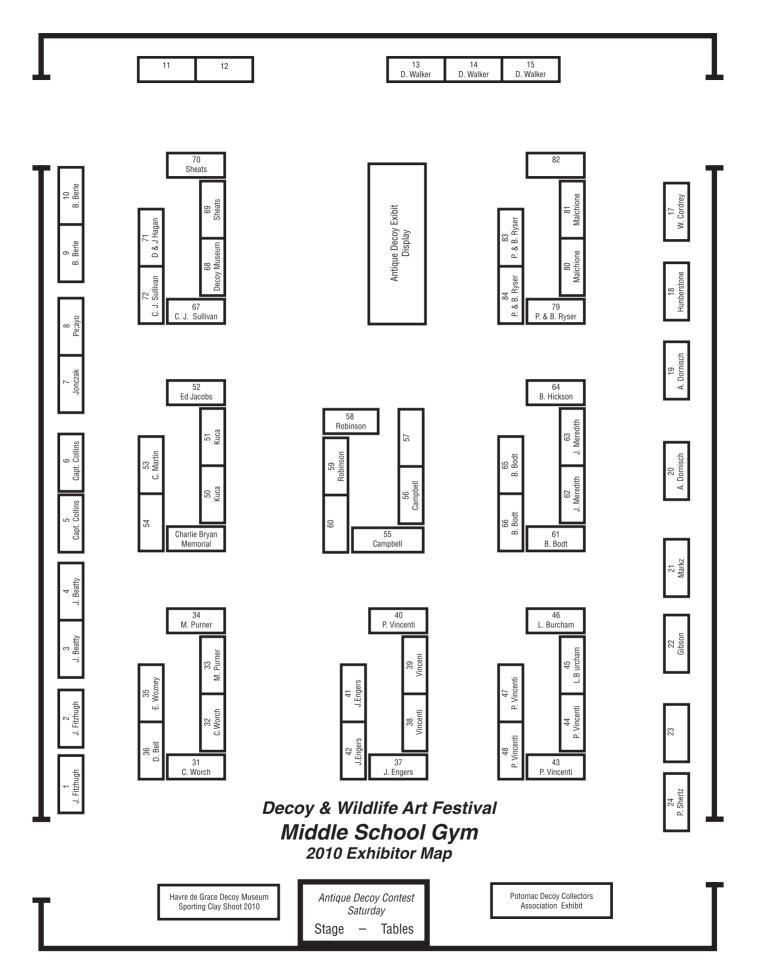


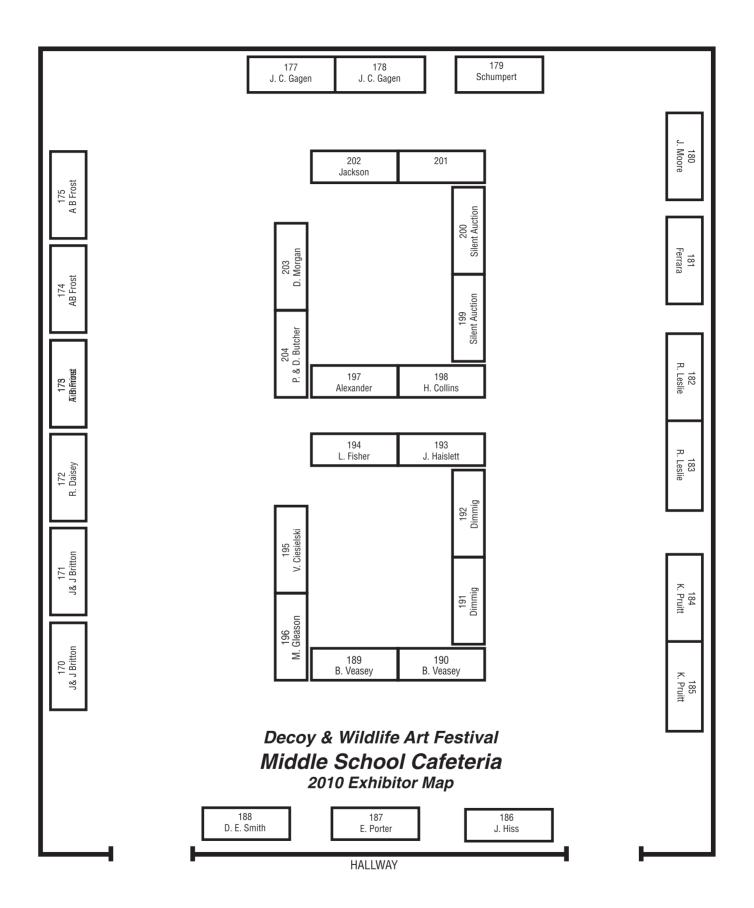


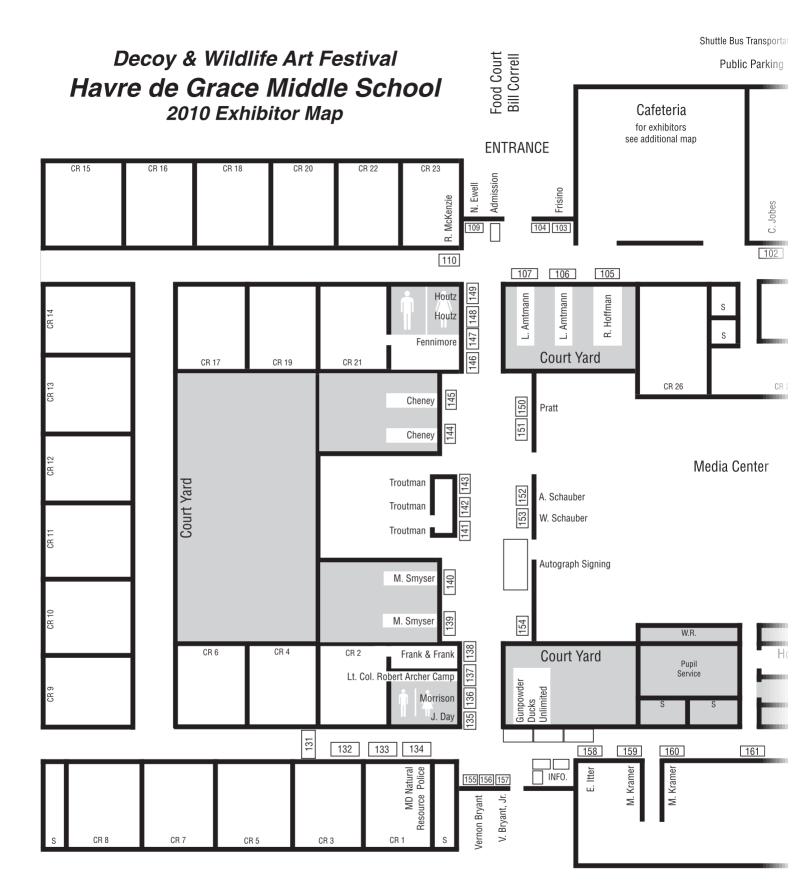
Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

Activity Center Gym

2010 Exhibitor Map







ENTRANCE

Shuttle Bus Transportation

blic Parking



Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's

Third Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, October 1st, 2010

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

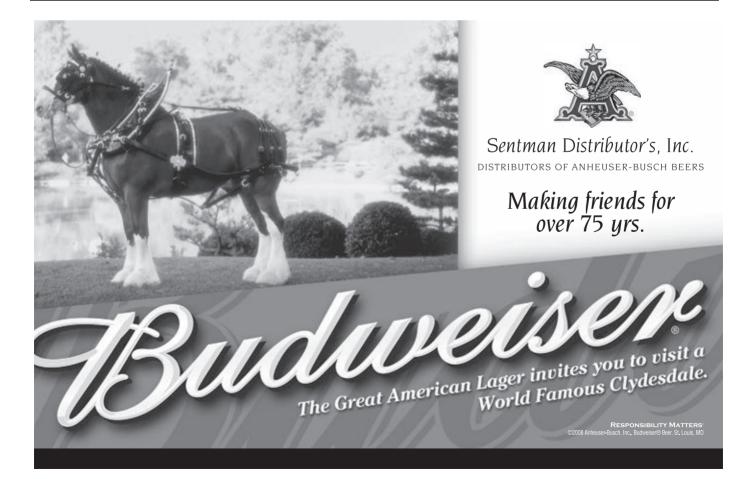
Lunch provided at 1:00 p.m.

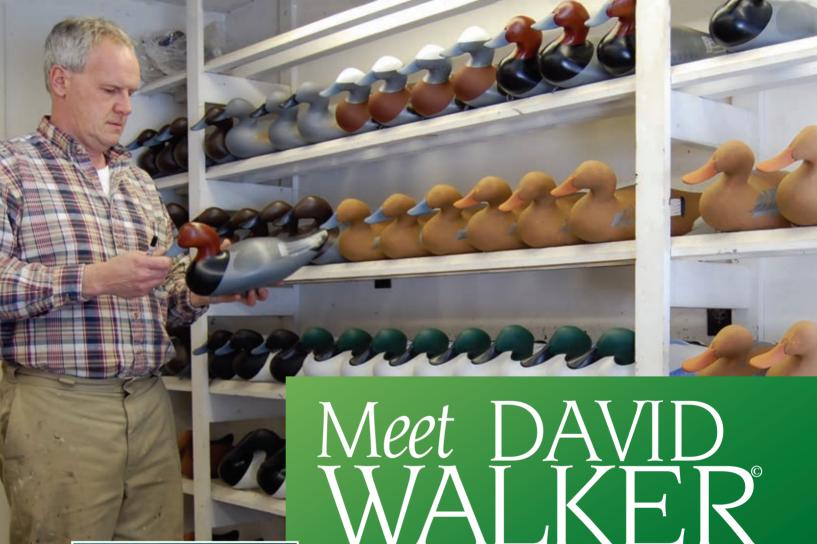
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221 NORTH LAPIDUM ROAD

Dave Walker with friend and mentor Charles "Speed" Joiner.

eet David "Dave" Walker, one of the "Havre de Grace Style" carvers who works quietly in the shop next to his home at 221 Lapidum Road. The sign at the road announces "Walker Decoys" in a beautiful country setting near the Susquehanna State Park. On the January day we visited, the sky was beginning to clear and there was a brisk wind. The recent snow and cold were abating; that was a good sign. Another good sign was Maggie, Dave's dog, who I was told, would announce my arrival and Dave would come out to show me the entrance to his shop. And announce me she did with a few barks and tail wags. Dave's greeting was a smile and a friendly voice. Maggie had broken the solitude of creating and painting.

Dave deftly daubed paint on the underbelly of a Speckled-Belly goose as we talked. It was one of the many for an order which was going to ship the following Monday. As he continued painting with swift, deliberate strokes, he told me that he works seven days a week. Later he qualified that when we discussed decoys as seen on the Antiques Road Show. Even an ardent carver such as Dave needs a bit of R&R occasionally.

In 1982 Dave built his shop in a fairly large building. Downstairs are the sanders and the lathe and upstairs is where he paints and has storage space; all neat and clean. Around the shop's rooms there were other decoys in various stages of completion—Blue Geese, Canada Geese and Snow Geese, hen Mallards and hen Bald Pates. Such beautiful birds and Dave captures their essence in a unique way. On the floor in a corner, there was a basketful of carved heads—various geese, Mallards and Pintails. These duck heads were waiting to be joined to necks and bodies, then sanded and painted, and

more sanding and painting until the desired finish was achieved.

As we know, decoy making and carving have evolved into American folklore, more like art deco. They no longer are working decoys, but instead these waterfowl adorn our homes. As if in tribute to the men who sat in blinds on land or on the water waiting for the flock to come in, Dave has shelves of old working decoys in his shop. The weathered

decoys are beat up from being tossed into boats and truck beds; their paint-chipped bodies are worn, as we would expect them to be. Their beauty is the story of waiting...and perhaps taking a shot meant for a bird.

A little background about Dave: He attended the local Harford County public schools and graduated from Havre de Grace High School in 1975. We discussed his school activities, and he offered that fishing and hunting were his sports. In fact, he is a bow hunter. On the shop wall there was a picture of his father with a deer. His father was a hunter as well as an avid fisherman. And there was another picture of Dave and his friends on a Louisiana duck-hunting trip. In a few days he would be taking an older friend goose hunting on the Eastern Shore—Johnny Simons from Baltimore County who is 82.

Dave began carving at fourteen, after his Aunt Carol gave him a Jimmy Pierce decoy. He learned the art and craft of

decoy carving when he rode his bike to Jimmy Pierce's shop after school to do the "dirty work"; he laughed as he said it. "He's been good to me." I commented, "We all have to start at the bottom." To which he replied, "No, today they all want to start at the top."

Dave recalled working at the shop of another much-respected and unforgettable carver, R. Madison Mitchell, along with Jimmy Pierce. He knew Paul Gibson and the others who are remembered at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum—men like Charlie Bryant.

I asked Dave which carvers he considered to be his mentors. "Each was a mentor in his own way," he said. He met Charlie Joiner in the late '80's—"Joyner was gracious to tell me and show me how to transition from working decoys to dec-

orative decoys." He uses the same paints. Dave added, "He had taken me under his wing, so to speak." He learned lots of secrets from Joiner who had learned them from the masters—the Ward Brothers. Experiences like these are ongoing in Dave's business.

Dave became a life member of the Decoy Museum around the time of its inception and served on the Board of Directors. He was in charge of build-

ings and grounds and recalled clearing the lot next to the Museum property. It was disappointing to him to see the lot sold and, however, not to the Museum. We agreed the increased expanse of the Museum property would be an asset today.

It is enviable: Since he retired from American Cyanamid in 1989, Dave devotes his time to his decoys, hunting and fishing. As we wound up our visit the sky cleared and brightened the shop a bit more. Maggie and Dave walked me to my car. Maggie bade me goodbye by wagging her tail, and Dave smiled.

You can see both of them at the Walker Decoys shop and Dave at his booth—
"Walker Decoys"—at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's 29th Annual Wildlife and Art Festival April 30th, May 1st and 2nd! ■



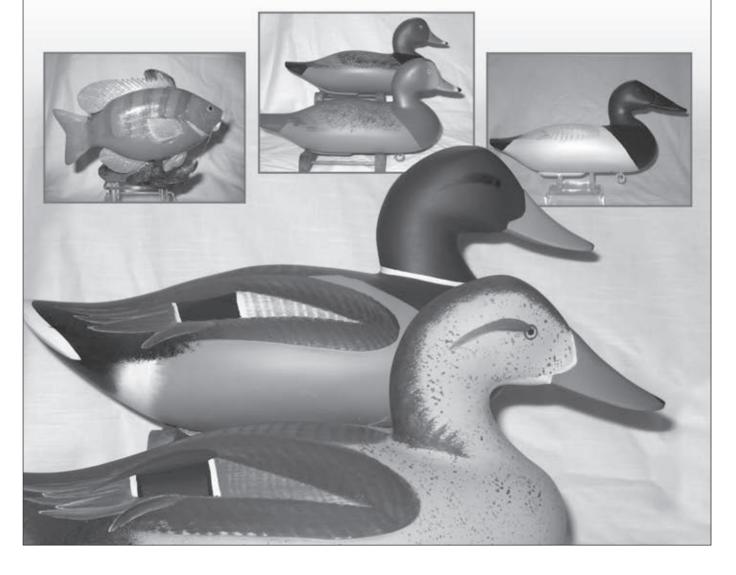




SATURDAY, MAY 1ST at 5:30 pm

Decoys new and old will be available. Charles Bryan & Paul Gibson to name a few.

Viewing begins at 1 pm • Bidder Registration opens 4:00 pm • Auction begins at 5:30 pm



29th Annual Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

Friday, April 30th: 6-9 p.m. · Saturday, May 1st: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, May 2nd: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



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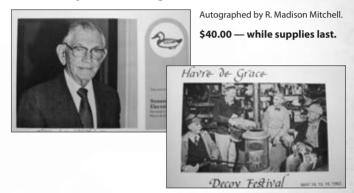
A limited number of autographed Programs from past festivals have been found. These programs will be available while supplies last. Sorry, due to the limited amount, no discounts are available for the Programs listed.

1984 Decoy Festival Progam



Autographed by Robert G. Litzenburg. **\$50.00** — while supplies last.

1982 Decoy festival Program



1990 Decoy Festival Program





R. Madison Mitchell
His Life and Decoys
A limited number of books remain.
\$50.00 — while supplies last.

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Remember, as a member of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum you receive a 10% discount on all but a few select items.

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FESTIVAL 2010 THE STIVAL 2010

Alphabetical

John Akehurst

Callers For Christ 3311 Deer Hill Rd Street, MD 21154 443-463-6032 callersforchristmaryland@yahoo.com

AC Gym

John Alexander

1619 Dooley RD Whiteford, MD 21160 443-307-6705

MS 197

Linda Amtmann

411 Vogts Lane Baltimore, MD 21221 410-391-1217

MS 106, 107

Joe Austin

DOA Outfitters 10206 Sharptown Rd Mardela Springs, MD 21837 410-883-2027 doaoutfitters@gmail.com

MS 088

Michael Bankes

Bankes Boats 14 Hunter Dr. North Port Rowan, Ontario, Cannada NOE 1 MO 519-586-2544 bankes@nornet.on.ca

AC Gym

Jocelyn Beatty

265 Mitchell Rd West Middlesex, PA 16159 724-528-3121 beatty@infoline.net

MS 003, 004

Don Bell

1000 Fountainview Ste 316 Newark, DE 19713 410-441-1014 dbell1000@comcast.net

MS 036

Beatrice C. Berle

P.O. Box 546 Corolla, NC 27927 252-453-2718

MS 009, 010

Bryon Bodt

2917 Churchville Rd Churchville, MD 21028 410-734-7702 bryon@bodtdecoys.com

MS 061, 065, 066

Art Boxleitner

18 Main Street Willow Street, PA 17584 717-464-2513 OLDWALLDO@verizon.net **MS 096**

Jim & Jackie Britton

Jim Britton Decovs 664 Twin Harbor Road Reedville, VA 22539 804-453-4643 holmesb@crosslink.net

MS 170, 171

Jeremiah Brooks

Ocean State Outfitters 400 N. Main Street Raynham, MA 02767 401-824-6440 hunt@oceanstateoutfitters.com www.oceanstateoutfitters.com **MS 089**

Capt. Vernon Bryant

90 Greenbank Road Perryville, MD 21903 410-287-8548 vbryant@atlanticbb.net

MS 155, 156

Vernon Bryant II

90 Greenbank Road Perryville, MD 21903 410-287-8548

MS 157

Leonard Burcham

703 Market Street Havre de Grace, MD 21078 410-939-2971

MS 045, 046

Paul & Deborah Butcher

10609 Bird River Road Baltimore, MD 21220 410-335-3237 nilloc24@netzero.com

MS 204

Lisa Byrd

5th Day of Creation Reproductions 19478 Saxis Rd Saxis, VA 23427 757-824-5878 rlbyrd@intercom.net

MS 098, 098A

Burt Campbell

OldGunninDecoys.com 34999 Hoot Owl Lane Dagsboro, DE 19939 302-541-4009 sinkbox28@MCHSI.com

MS 055, 056

EXHIBITORS LIST Alphabetical continued

Scott Campbell

Hunters Helping Soldiers 436 Northdown Dr Dover, DE 19904 302-384-1121 huntershelpingsoldiers@yahoo.com

AC Gym

Nelia Cheney

Round Hill Art 2106 Round Hill Rd Fallston, MD 21047 410-877-3881

MS 144, 145

Vincent A. Ciesielski

7705 Aynlee Way Harrisburg, PA 17112 717-583-0919 finefeathers@verizon.net

MS 195

Capt. Bill Collins, Jr.

2718 Ruthsburg Rd Centreville, MD 21617

MS 005, 006

Harry Collins, Jr.

851 State Rd West Grove, PA 19390 610-869-3237 harryc@localnet.com

MS 198

Pauline & Bill Cordrey

Box 651 Barnegat Light, NJ 08006 609-494-8677 **MS 017**

Rosalyn Leach Daisey

25 Winsome Way Newark, DE 19702 302-453-9779 Rosalyndaisey@yahoo.com

MS 172

John Day

P. O. Box 508 Cecilton, MD 21913 443-553-5227

MS 135

Daniel Deppen

Deppenwood Products 33 Country Club Road Willingboro, NJ 08046 609-880-0275 deppenwood@yahoo.com

MS outside

Shannon Dimmig

34 Cherry Lane Elkton, MD 21921 302-286-6672 sdimmig34@comcast.net

MS 191, 192

Cpl. Jeffery White, DNR

National Resources Police 3738 Gwynbrook Ave Owings Mills, MD 21117 410-356-9687

MS 134

Al Dornisch

428 Lookout Ave Ridgway, PA 15853 814-772-5333 bigowl@alltel.net

MS 019, 020

Joe Engers

Decoy Magazine
P.O. Box 787
Lewes, DE 19958
302-644-9001
decoymag@aol.com
MS 037, 041, 042

4 Moorepark Ct Cockeysville, MD 21030 410-666-1841 betewell@bcpl.net

MS 109

Ned Ewell

Edward Fennimore

Miniature Decoys 775 Harding Hwy Box 26 Buena, NJ 08310 856-697-3734

MS 147

Rita Ferrara

11610 Gail Street Wheaton, MD 20902 301-946-2161 pyro-art@comcast.net

MS 181

Lu Fisher

Wildfowl Carvings 349 Hemsley Dr Queenstown, MD 21658 wyework@atlanticbb.net

MS 194

Jeff Fitzhugh

Fitzhugh Decoys 6624 Pine Top Rd Hurlock, MD 21643 410-943-4386 jfdecoys@yahoo.com

MS 001, 002

Roger Forwood

9003 Fieldchat Road Baltimore, MD 21236 410-529-3850

MS 097

Exhibitors continued on page 22

Exhibitors continued from page 21

Jon Frank

Frank & Frank Sporting Collectibles 422 Lakewood-Farmingdale Rd Howell, NJ 07731 732-938-2988 afrank1807rh@cs.com

MS 138

Joyce C. Gagen

Art A La Carte 6 Cragmoor Dr Shamong, NJ 08088 609-268-1926 joycegagen@aol.com

MS 177, 178

Doreen Gedvilas

D.B.A. Doreens Scent Team 105 Concove Way Havre de Grace, MD 21078 410-942-0099 doreen1966@verizon.net

HS field

Douglas A. Gibson

Gibson's Hand Made Decoys 704 North Street Ext. Milford, DE 19963 302-359-2124

MS 022

Michael Gleason

Decorating Quacks 4 Slavin Court Baltimore, MD 21236 410-661-4340 PTAILRUDDY@verizon.net **MS 196**

Tim Grounds

Tim Grounds Championship Calls, Inc. 14331 Prosperity Rd Johnston City, IL 62951 618-983-5649 tim@timgrounds.com

AC Gym

Phil Hague

Rock Hall Gun Club LLC. 5146 Crosby Rd Rock Hall, MD 21661 410-639-9001 rhgunclub@yahoo.com

AC Gym

Jim Haislett

120 Palace Ave Claymont, DE 19703 302-824-3406

MS 193

Bill Hickson

11718 Three Bridge Br. Rd Cordova, MD 21625 410-714-3282

MS 064

Leroy Hippensteel

Pro-fowl Decoys 1184 Greenfield Dr Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 717-574-0337 hipp2412@yahoo.com

AC Gym

Jeanne B. Hiss

205 A. Seneca Way Havre de Grace, MD 21078 410-939-5038

MS 186

Jo Houtz

1417 Emily Ct. W Abingdon, MD 21009 410-538-5585 h2ohye@aol.com

MS 148

Tom Humberstone

The Duck Blind 2081 Coon Hill Rd Skaneateles, NY 13152 315-685-6819

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AC Gym

Edward E. Itter

Bodkin Point Decoys 8098 Ventnor Rd Pasadena, MD 21122 410-255-7226

MS 158

Doug Jackson

308 St. Ives Drive Severna Park, MD 21146 410-987-4379 dbjackson4@comcast.net

MS 202

Ed Jacobs

1050 Nottingham Rd Elkton, MD 21921 410-398-7500 ejacobs45@yahoo.com

MS 052

Bob & Debbie Jobes

721 Ostego Street Havre de Grace, MD 21078 410-939-1843 nomini@comcast.net

MS 092, 093

Capt. Harry Jobes

Chesapeake Bay Decoys 77 Baker St Aberdeen, MD 21001 410-272-2055

MS 095

Charles Jobes

855 Otsego St Havre de Grace, MD 21078 410-939-3005 chesterdecoys@comcast.net **MS 101, 102**

Joey Jobes

Joey Jobes Decoys 619 Bourbon Street Havre de Grace, MD 21078 410-939-1807

MS 085, 086

Francis Jonczak

368 Hunters Run Dr Bel Air, MD 21015 410-569-8583 nurackesib82@aol.com

MS 007

M. D. Kramer MD

3707 Gardenview Rd Pikesville, MD 21208 410-484-3321 kdecoys@comcast.net

MS 159, 160

Tim Kuca

50 Hamlin Dr Fredericksburg, VA 22405 540-226-3693 t.kuca@yahoo.com

MS 050, 051

Robert Leslie

1035 Hancock Dr Turnersville, NJ 08012 856-228-8874 skidado@aol.com

MS 182, 183

Stephen Lyle

Goey Hunting Calls 1 Shade Road Oley, PA 19547-8971 610-987-0389 info@goeycalls.com

AC Gym

Chris Martin

2485 Roberts Station Road Church Hill, MD 21623 410-758-0472 cjschesapeake@gmail.com

MS 053

Ray S. McKenzie

937 S. Fifth Street Chambersburg, PA 17201 717-264-2583

MS 110

John Meredith

John Meredith Decoys 11975 Still Pond Rd Worton, MD 21678 410-708-8887

MS 062, 063

Bill Moholland

Get-em Locked Up
124 Gabel Rd
Coatesville, PA 19320
610-637-7799
customerservice@getemlockedup.com

AC Gym

Jeff Moore

Fowl Play Studios 549 Pearl Street Rising Sun, MD 21911 410-658-5451

MS 180

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Exhibitors continued from page 23

David Morgan

Dave Morgan Decoys 476 Carpenter's Pit Rd Milford, DE 19963 302-422-8315 jwm1975@aol.com

MS 203

Harry T. Morrison

143 Bay Blvd Havre de Grace, MD 21078 443-417-4391 savoyb1@msn.com

MS 136

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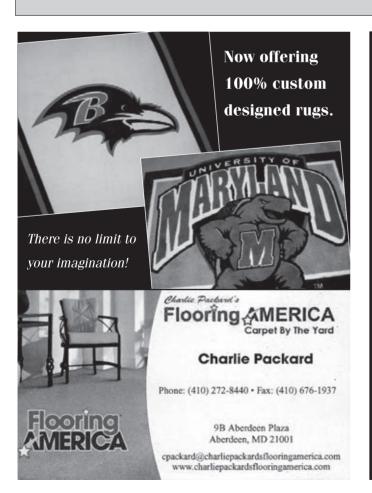
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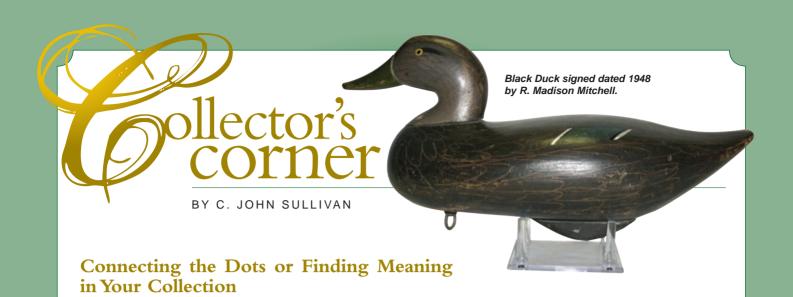


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I have been extremely fortunate in building my collection over the past decades. I have known the source of a large percentage of the decoys which I have

gathered about me. Acquiring decoys directly from their maker or finding them in personal gunning rigs still in the possession of the waterfowler made my experience especially meaningful.

Sitting with R. Madison Mitchell, Paul Gibson, Milton Watson, Ed "Pop"

Sampson, Clarence Webb, Robert Litzenberg, Evans McKinney, Clarence "Tit Bird" Bauer, Charlie Bryan or Lem Ward as they carved a head or painted their carvings was always a bonus and enhanced my collecting experience. Over the course of many years, I spent countless hours watching and listening to their tales of the way it once was. Great memorable stories and tales were told, some of which I am sure were modified on the days that my young son accompanied me.

Through the years, along with the new decoys by these makers old working decoys came my way through the owners of substantial gunning rigs. I had knowledge of the location of a number of rigs, and in many cases I knew the owners and their families. The pleasure of visiting and talking with the owners gave me a deep sense of the real history of the working decoys from this region. If I wasn't a family friend before we "talked decoys," I usually was at the end of our visits.

The very first rig that I acquired was a result of a chance encounter with an old family friend at a Duck's Unlimited banquet. That DU event was in the days of the "for men only" get togethers. At the end of the evening, I

Continued on page 38



AUTOGRAPHS

1982	R. Madison Mitchell [DECEASED]	A. M. adison Mitatell
1983	Paul Gibson [DECEASED]	A. M. adison Mitatell
1984	Charles Bryan [DECEASED]	Thanks Bryan
1985	No Chairman	
1986	Robert Litzenberg [DECEASED]	Bokus & Litzenberg
1987	Charles Joiner	
1988	Captain Harry Jobes	
1989	Captain Bill Collins	
1990	Captain Roger Urie [DECEASED]	
1991	James Pierce	
1992	James Currier [DECEASED]	James a Bunier
1993	William "Bill" Schauber and Allan Schauber	
1994	Robert McGaw [DECEASED]	Potet f. W. Gaw Je
1995	J. Evans McKinney [DECEASED]	V
1996	Harry V. Shourds II	

AUTOGRAPHS

1997	Ronald Rue [DECEASED]	
1998	Lem and Steve Ward [DECEASED]	
1999	Oliver Lawson	
2000	John "Daddy" Holly, James Holly, William"Bill", and John Holly Jr. [DECEASED]	
2001	Charles Nelson Barnard [DECEASED]	Charles Melegi Barners
2002	Patrick Vincenti	
2003	Ned Mayne	
2004	Grayson Chesser	
2005	Jim Britton	
2006	George Williams	
2007	Joseph Coudon [DECEASED]	Joeph Conden
2008	Bryon Bodt	(/
2009	Bill Veasey	
2010	Dave Walker	

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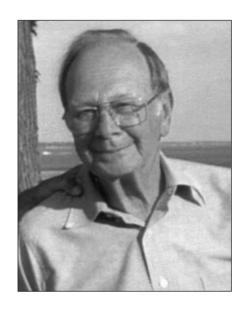
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Dr. William K. Brendle, M.D.

Dr. William Brendle died February 4 at his home in Havre de Grace. His wife of 59 years, Evelyn, survives him. Eighty-nine years old at the time of his death, Dr. Brendle was in private practice as a surgeon for more than three decades and spent much of his retirement carving duck decoys and volunteering at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.



Born on Long Island, NY, July 14, 1920, Dr. Brendle graduated from the University of Maryland College Park. He earned his medical degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, training both there and at nearby Mercy and Maryland General Hospitals. During World War II, he served as a flight surgeon in the Army Air Force, eventually retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Maryland Air National Guard.

Dr. Brendle moved from Baltimore to Havre de Grace in 1953; he operated surgical clinics in Havre de Grace and Fallston for 34 years. He served as chief of staff and chief of surgery at Harford Memorial Hospital.

After his arrival in Havre de Grace, he quickly became associated with members of the "Decoy Community," developing friendships with the oldtime decoy carvers Robert F. McGaw, James Currier, Madison Mitchell and Paul Gibson. He created his working decoys in that community. He carved his decoy heads under the guidance of those carvers and others and turned his decoy bodies on Paul Gibson's lathe. James Currier provided the painting talent. Dr. Brendle carved a large letter B on the underside of those first decoys to mark his "rig." Those first decoys are today among the classics from Havre de Grace.

Dr. Brendle's dedication to the decoy community grew after the Decoy Museum opened, and he spent countless hours in the Museum as a volunteer. "He was a faithful volunteer, active in many aspects of the Museum," said Eleanor Coale, a fellow volunteer for some twenty years. One of his yearly projects was to put together the Museum's very distinctive wooden Christmas tree that is decorated with duck heads made and donated

by carvers. He also served as Vice President of the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust Board of Directors. "Bill" Brendle was an ever present fixture at all of the Decoy Museum's many functions. It will be difficult to envision a Decoy Festival without the Good Doctor in the house.

During the 1970s he served as a wildlife commissioner for the State of Maryland; he was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Columbia Bank, the Masonic Lodge, and the Joseph L. Davis American Legion Post #47.

A memorial service for Dr. Brendle was held in St. John's Episcopal Church; he was interred in Angel Hill Cemetery.

In addition to his wife he is survived by two daughters, a brother, and two grandchildren. A third daughter died in 2003. ■

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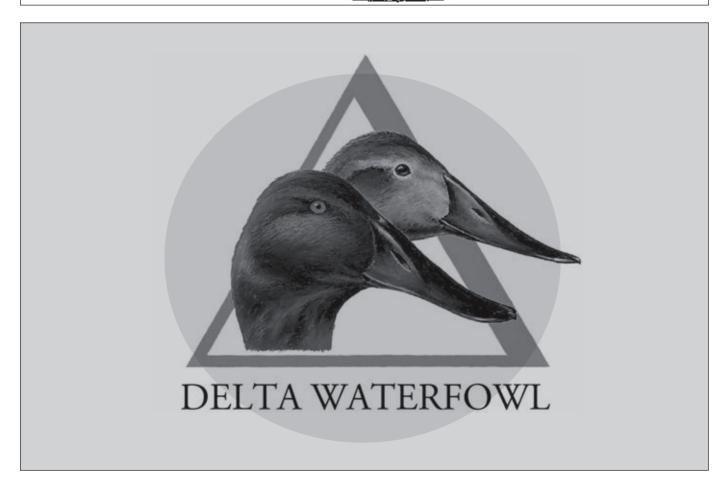


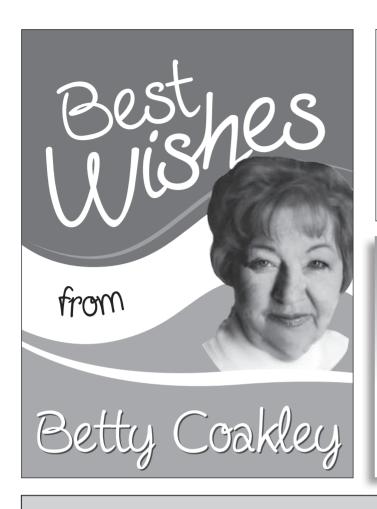
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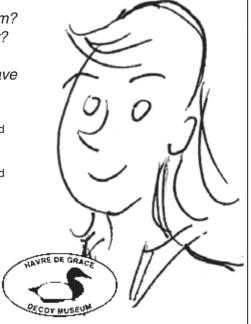
Do you have a few hours a week you could give to the museum? How about a few hours a year for the Festival or the Duck Fair? Do you enjoy early morning bird walks and would you like to share your knowledge with others? If you have the time, we have the need.

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.





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Contact the museum for additional information by calling 410-939-3739 or email decoymuseum@yahoo.com.



Continued from page 27

was approached by an old family friend with "you know, I have a bunch of old decoys that I don't use anymore; would you like to

see them?" I left that evening in anticipation of seeing and maybe having the chance to buy a couple of old decoys.

Next day I was in his garage bright and early. The decoys were neatly arranged overhead in the building, resting on boards and covered with dust, the result of many years of storage. The rig was purchased in a matter of just a few minutes.

Looking back now at that transaction, it was completed before I had held the first decoy in my hands. That rig had been owned by a distant cousin of mine and left in the care and custody of my old friend, who had been my cousin's hunting guide. They were used on the Chesapeake Bay just outside of Havre de Grace on the Davis Farm. This beautiful farm still in family ownership to this day is one of but four farms in Harford County that front on the Bay. The rig was 70 decoys that were used at the blind locations on the Bay.

When the decoys were loaded into the back of my pickup truck, my first stop on the route home was at my mother's to show her my newest acquisition. I think her comment went something like this "Well, Johnny, if that's what makes you happy, I hope you enjoy them!" The decoys went home that day; I along with young John unloaded them and lined them up on the lawn and took a couple of photos of that rig.

It was about that time as they were being placed in rows that it became apparent that some were missing. Much to my surprise there were but 66 decoys and not the 70 that were in the rig.

What I realized at that moment and what I have experienced several other times since that day was the fact that he just could not give them all up; he had to hold onto four decoys. It was too much for him to let them all go, the connection and the recollection of great days of sport recalled by having those four birds close by eased the pain of letting the rest of them go.

That rig of now 66 decoys was comprised of 59 R. Madison Mitchell birds, and 7 older Susquehanna Flats decoys. I



quickly traveled to Havre de Grace to have Mr. Mitchell sign each of his birds for me. When I told him whose decoys they had been he recalled having made that rig in 1938. Such experiences with Mr. Mitchell gave me access to yet another source of great stories and great history.

That very first rig of Mitchells established for me the preference in my collecting. I enjoy the history of that rig as much as I appreciate their resting place. They reside in my "duck room" on the original paint rack from Madison Mitchell's decoy shop. Knowing that those old birds once graced those boards when they were the newest decoys in the shop and their paint was still moist makes the experience of that group of decoys a delight for me to behold each time I walk past them.

As I write these stories of my collecting there is one theme that I want every collector to keep me mind. If you have but one decoy or several hundred, KNOW THE HISTORY of that block of wood. Know where it came from, who owned it before it came to you. If it is branded, all the better BUT be sure you know that it is an authentic brand and not some newly made up brand that has been burned into an old body and then "antiqued" to add authenticity. Talk to the owner of the decoy. If he says he has no knowledge of where the decoy came from then maybe that is not the bird for you.

Always remember "caveat emptor," "to the buyer beware." Learn as much as you can about the decoy, the original owner and by all means learn as much as you can about the seller. Connect the dots, and your collection will have a meaning and a purpose. Trust me on this one — you will have a lifetime of enjoyment and satisfaction in knowing your decoys if you can only connect the dots.

Thank you to the following members and businesses that recently renewed their membership this past Winter. Your continued support and contributions are essential to the overall success of the Decoy Museum:

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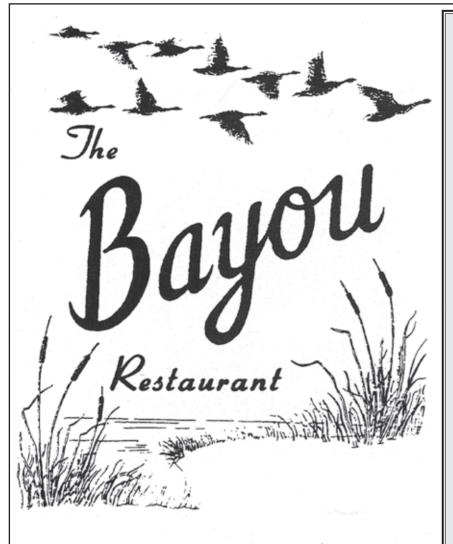


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An exhibit of Factory Decoys, donated by Dr. M. Kramer, second floor gallery
Louisiana Decoys, Library Gallery

The Magnificent Michael Bequest, An extraordinary pair of "Daddy" Holly canvasbacks, first floor near the "Gunning the Flats" exhibit

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.

APRIL 24TH

Earth Day Celebration at the Maritime Museum. 9-5pm. Participate in River Sweep and have fun learning how you can protect the Bay. Enjoy lunch, live music, games & activities. Receive a special pass to visit local attractions. For more information contact: Brenda Guldenzopf at 410-939-4800 or email: museum@comcast.net or visit Website: http://www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org

24TH — 25TH

City-wide Yard Sale. 8-4pm. Huge, community-wide event! Yard sales, sidewalk sales, and bargains galore! For more information contact: Ron Browning & HdG Office of Tourism at 410-939-6562 or 410-939-2100. You can email: info2@havredegracemd.com or visit Website:http://www.hdgtourism.com

24TH

Skipjack Martha Lewis: 16th Annual Bull & Oyster Roast. 6-10pm. Join the crew of the Martha Lewis in Hutchins Park for a celebration to kick off the summer cruise season! For more information regarding prices contact: Cindi Beane at 410-939-1151, email: director@chesapeakeheritage.org or visit their website: http://www.chesapeakeheritage.org

Maritime Museum's Children's Day. 1-5pm. Date has been changed from March. Enjoy maritime fun and hands-on history for the whole family. Learn to tie knots, build boats, and participate in craft activities. For more information contact: Brenda Guldenzopf at 410-939-4800, email: museum@comcast.net or visit their website: http://www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org

25TH

Renaissance All Sports Running Club Presents: Women's 5K By the Bay. 8am registration, 8:30 run begins. A celebration of women, running and fitness. For more information call 410-399-9948 or email: gusandsuerun@comcast.net

30TH TO MAY 2ND

The Decoy Museum Presents: 29th Annual Decoy & Wildlife Festival. Fri. 6-9pm, Sat. 10-5pm, Sun. 10-4pm. Enjoy 140 Decoy Carvers, Artists, Commercial Outfitters, Guide Services, Live & Silent Auctions and Retriever Dog Demonstrations and Outdoor Hunting Show. For more information contact: Margaret Jones at 410-939-3739 or email: decoymuseum@yahoo. com or visit their website http://www.decoymuseum.com

MAY 1ST

War of 1812 Re-Enactment at the Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum. Experience the battle of Havre de Grace during the War of 1812. Admission is \$3.00 adults, \$1.00 child. For more information call 410-939-5780, email director@lockhousemuseum.org or visit their website:http://www.lockhousemuseum.org

Free Comic Book Day at Washington Street Books! 11-5pm. Come to Washington Street Books at 131 N. Washington Street to get your free comic book and enjoy all this unique bookstore has to offer! For more information call 410-939-6215, email: WASHBKS@EROLS. COM or visit their website http://www.washingtonstreetbooks.com

7TH — 9TH

9th Annual Susquehanna Music & Arts Festival. Join us for a GREAT weekend of MUSIC! S.M.A.F. is a modern & traditional FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL with lots of acts including children's program, Native American Dance and more. Celebrating the talents of Local, National and International Musicians since 2002! Times: Friday (The Vandiver Inn) 6-10pm, Saturday (Lock House Museum Grounds)10am-4pm, Saturday Night (Community Center) 5-10pm, Sunday (Lock House Grounds) 10am-4pm Admission is \$20 a day or \$60 for complete weekend ticket. For more information contact: www.hdgtourism.com , Phone: 410-939-2100 or Email: brigitteP@havredegracemd.com or visit their website:http://www.susquehannamusicandartsfestival.com

8TH

HdG Arts Commission Presents: The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. 8pm. Enjoy this wonderful evening at the HdG High School auditorium. Tickets available at the HdG Visitor Center, 450 Pennington Avenue. For more information call 410-939-5425 or 410-939-2100

13TH

Ellsworth B. Shank Lecture Series. 6:30pm. Meet at City Hall for a Walking Tour. You will hear about: Havre de Grace & the Gilded Age. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information call 410-939-5780, email: director@lockhousemuseum.org or visit their website http://www.lockhousemuseum.org

14TH — 15TH

The Potomac Wildlife Art & Decoy Show. Friday 6:30 – 9:00pm, Saturday 10am – 3:00pm. To be held at the college of Southern Maryland, La Plata, Maryland. Free decoy identification and appraisals. Exhibit of classic antique decoys and a carving competition. For more information contact Burkey Boggs at 301-934-1366 or Chad Tragakis at 703-768-2949 or email ctragakis@cox.net

15TH

Secret Garden Tour of Havre de Grace. 12-5pm. Sponsored by the Maritime Museum, this Garden Tour is the perfect way to celebrate Spring! From 9-noon, enjoy a cup of tea, local baked goods and produce from the Farmers' Market, then from noon to 5pm tour HdG's beautiful gardens and landscaped yards. For more information contact Brenda Guldenzopf at 410-939-4800, email: museum@comcast.net or visit their website http://www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org

15TH TO 16TH

Medieval Days at the Steppingstone Farm Museum. 12-5pm. Both days Event features a Medieval Encampment with fighting and fencing demonstrations, arts and crafts, period music and dance, children's games, food and tours. For more information call Phone: 410-939-2299 or 888-419-1762, email: steppingstonemuseum@msn.com or visit their website: http://www.steppingstonemuseum.org

22ND

Maritime Museum's Community History Day. 1-5pm. New date, moved from March. We will reveal local history in our own backyard through a series of student community history projects. For more information contact Brenda Guldenzopf at 410-939-4800, email: museum@comcast.net or visit their website: http://www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org

31ST

Memorial Day Event-Sponsored by American Legion Post 47. 9am and 11 am. Memorial Day observances begin at Angel Hill Cemetery at 9am and then proceed to Tydings Memorial Park at 11am. Sponsored by American Legion Post 47. For more information call 410-939-0234.

JUNE 5TH

Upper Chesapeake Residential Hospice's 11th Annual Regatta. 5-9:30pm Come to the Concord Point Lighthouse to enjoy the Sailboat Regatta and dinner provided by notable chefs from several of Harford County's finest

restaurants. Enjoy unlimited beer & soda, music, gaming wheels and a silent auction. Ticket price is \$75 per person. For more information call 443-643-3460, email: dbt.01@ex.uchs.org or visit their website: http://www.uchs.org

10TH

Ellsworth B. Shank Lecture Series. 6:30pm. Come to City Hall to enjoy a roundtable discussion with historians. Admission is free. For more information call 410-939-5780, email: director@lockhousemuseum.org or visit their website: http://www.lockhousemuseum.org.

11TH — 12TH

American Cancer Society: Relay for Life of Havre de Grace. 7pm-6am. Relay for Life is a celebration of cancer survivorship and community spirit raising much-needed funds for the American Cancer Society. Event this year will be held on the grounds of Havre de Grace Middle School. For more information call 410-933-5160, email: susan.bresuciak@cancer.org or visit their website: http://www.relayforlife.org/havredegrace

13TH

Celtic Festival at Steppingstone Farm Museum. 12-5pm. Event features pipe band music, dancing and singing, sheepherding, sheep shearing, clan gatherings, vendors, amateur games competition, military regiment, food and tours. For more information call 410-939-2299 or 888-419-1762. Email: steppingstonemuseum@msn.com. Website: http://www.steppingstonemuseum.org

JUNE 19TH

The Decoy Museum's Annual Sporting Clay Classic. 9am. The HdG Decoy Museum invites you to this 75 target, 3 Lewis Class event! Shoot takes place at Pintail Point. All proceeds benefit the Decoy Museum. For more information contact Margaret Jones at 410-939-3739 or email: decoymuseum@yahoo.com

21ST — 26TH

Maritime Museum's Teen Boat Building School. 9-4pm. Teens will learn how to make their own canoe with the help of instructors from the Chesapeake Wooden Boat Builders School. For more information and how to register contact Brenda Guldenzopf at 410-939-4800, email: museum@comcast.net or visit their website: http://www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org

26TH

Summertime Blues Festival at Steppingstone Museum. 2-8pm. Event features live blues music by local, regional, and national acts. Enjoy this outdoor show in a beautiful setting. Food, beer and wine for sale. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. For more information and ticket prices call 410-939-2299 or 888-419-1762, email: steppingstonemuseum@msn.com or visit their website: http://www.steppingstonemuseum.org

JUNE 29TH TO JULY 4TH

Independence Celebration Carnival. Come bring the family to Tydings Park to enjoy the annual Independence Celebration Carnival! Rides and attractions for all ages. July 4th Independence Day Parade, Carnival, Concert & Fireworks Enjoy your day with us! Parade at 2pm, Carnival 6-10pm, Concert at 7pm & Fireworks at Tydings Park at 9:15pm (approximately.) For more information call 410-939-2100 or visit their website: http://www.hdgtourism.com.

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