HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

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The Cany

Fall 2010 Vol. 19 No. 4

18th Annual

Endowment Banquet

The Restaurant 410-939-3565 927 Pulaski Highway • Havre de Grace, MD 21078 Serving Seasonal Local Favorites

Fried Oysters • Soft Shell Crabs • Rockfish Crab Cakes • Crab Imperial • Seafood Combo

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The place the locals always come back to!

For over fifty years the Bayou Restaurant has been a local favorite in the

Guests can enjoy dining in one of our dining rooms, decorated with prints and

decoys of local carvers.

Remember the spirit of Havre de Grace's race-

track. The Graw, as it is

captured on a mural in our

We have three banquet rooms with seating for 30-

200 guests. Our staff will

tailor a menu to make your

banquet memorable.

banquet room.

"City by the Bay."

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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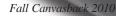
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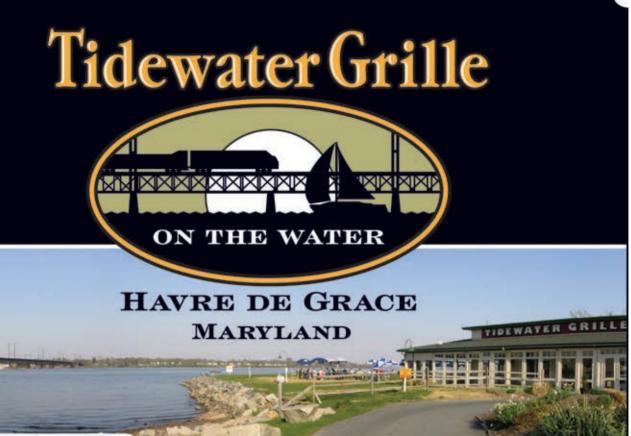
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Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Vice President Charles Packard greets R. Madison Mitchell, Jr., President of the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust at last year's Annual Trust Banquet.







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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,

The Decoy Museum officially opened its doors in the mid-1980's and has since maintained an impressive operations schedule—seven days a week, 300 days per year. This



Photo by Leo Hepner

has been quite an accomplishment for a volunteerbased, non-profit in the small city of Havre de Grace, Maryland. This schedule has afforded the Museum the opportunity to support all the tourism efforts in Havre de Grace, Harford County, and the State of Maryland.

Although our volunteers have always played an invaluable role in day-to-day operations and special events, early on we realized a paid staff was essential for the continued growth of the Museum. The Museum is extremely fortunate to have the dedicated and loyal staff that has been in place for several years.

For more than thirty years the Decoy Museum has been guided by a committed Board of Directors. It has assisted the staff and volunteers in every aspect of Museum operations, from capital campaign fund-raising to changing light bulbs.

Through the years faces and names have changed but the desire and commitment has remained as strong on your Board as it was in the mid-eighty's. Change on the Board is good in many ways. It brings renewed energy, fresh thoughts, and new ideas about how we can continue to grow the Museum in the future. At this time we welcome our most recent additions to the Board: Charles Heisey, Bill Veasey, and Jeff Coats.

Each new member will fill a specific role on the Board; Charles will work with the staff upgrading Museum communications and technology, Bill and Jeff will assist the staff as it seeks to enhance and grow the Decoy Festival. We are still in need of those of you with the vision and passion that has taken what was and idea and transformed it into a remarkable reality. Currently there are sixteen directors on our Board—we have room for two or three more. I challenge you to offer to be one of them.

Sincerely,

tick Vincent

Pat Vincenti

FUNDED IN PART BY

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

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is funded by an operating grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

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.

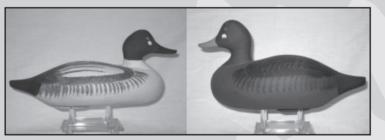


Fall Kattle 2010

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

A Chance to win ONE of five valuable prizes. Five tickets will be drawn. Winners will be notified in the order they were chosen and will be able to select one from the prizes listed below.

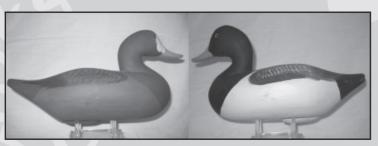
Tickets are \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25.00



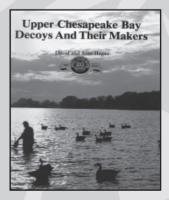
1st Place — Pair of Paul Gibson Goldeneyes



3rd **Place** — Paul Gibson Black Duck



2nd Place — Pair of Paul Gibson Bluebills



4th Place — Signed 20th Anniversary Upper Bay Decoys & Their Makers by Dave & Joan Hagan

Drawing will be held 6pm on December 12, 2010 during the Candlelight Tour. For tickets call **410-939-3739**. (additional tickets will be available at the Museum)

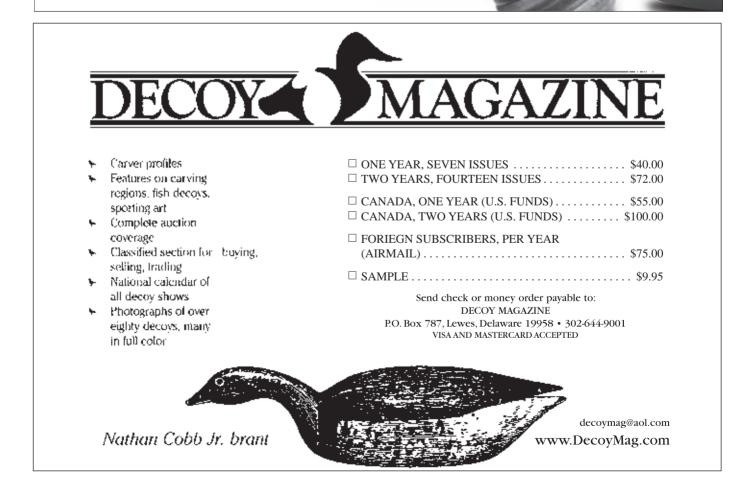
auction items for the Live Auction to be held Saturday, May 7, 2011 at 5:30pm during the 30th Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival.

If you have decoys that you would like to sell or donate to the museum for inclusion in the live auction, please contact the Museum. If we receive the item BEFORE February 15, 2011, your item will be photographed and included in the Festival issue of the *Canvasback* magazine. We will continue to take consignments and donations for the auction until we have reached the 100 lot limit. Any items received AFTER February 15th will not be included in the festival issue of the *Canvasback* magazine but, will be listed on the AMENDED list that will be made available as soon as the 100 lots are filled.

The commission rate will be 10% from the buyer and 25% from the seller. All proceeds will benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Consignments must be received by February 15, 2011, in order for photographs to be included in the Festival catalog.

anlea

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



> Museum Members

Thank you and welcome to the following members and businesses that recently renewed their membership or newly joined us. Your continued support and contributions are essential to the overall success of the Decov Museum:

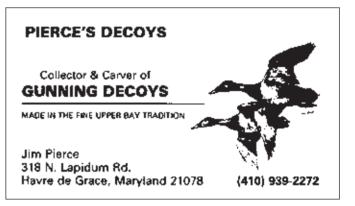
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Alfred R. Berkeley Charlie Bryan Steve & Lori Kasser Chris Martin Carmelo J Palazzo

Thomas J. C. Petr. PhD William Thrush Toy Thym, LLC

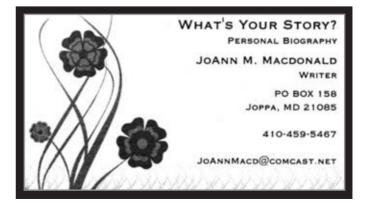


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Make Plans Now for the 30th Annual Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

Make sure you mark your calendars and join us for another exciting event with many decoy & wildlife artists, carving competitions, hunting and fishing suppliers/dealers/guide services, retriever dog demonstrations, dog competitions, dog clinics, live auction, silent auctions, food and more.

May 6th, 7th & 8th, 2011

Friday: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Saturday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Sunday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

***** LIVE AUCTION *****

ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD AT

Havre de Grace Middle School

401 Lewis Lane

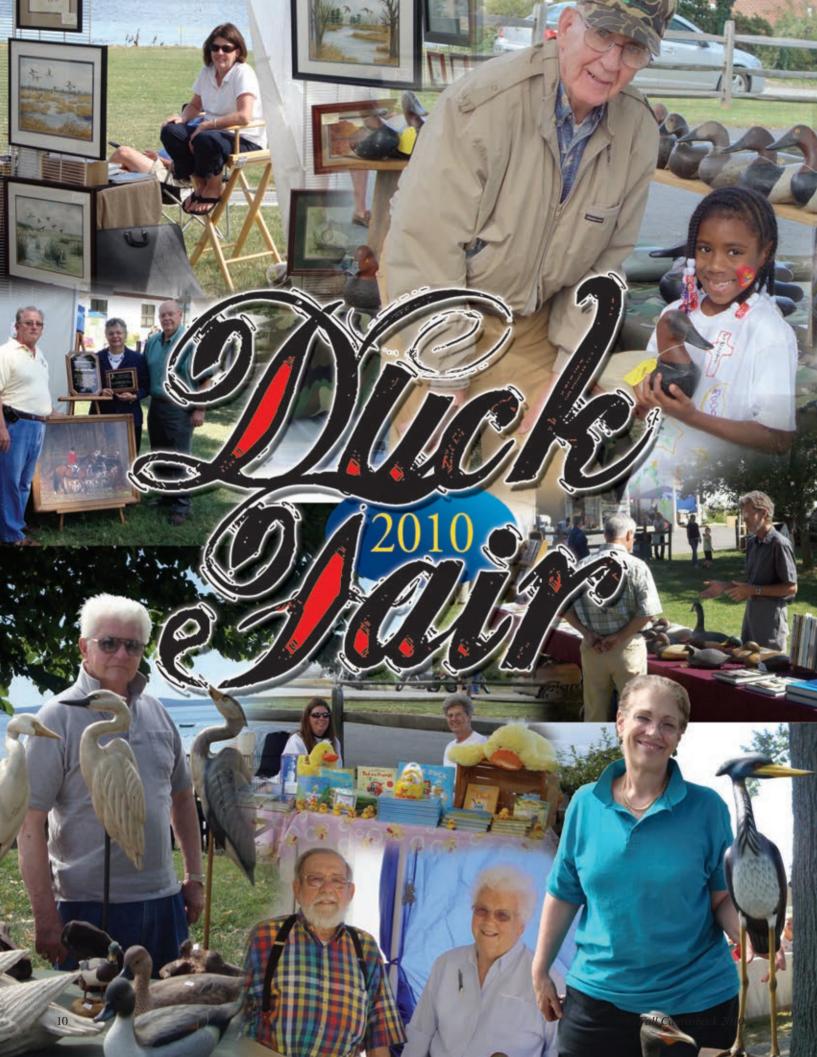
Decoy Museum Market & Giles Streets

Havre de Grace Activity Center 401 Lewis Lane (behind Middle School)

call for more information **110-939-373**

or visit us online **www.decoymuseum.co**

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum 215 Giles Street • Havre de Grace, MD 21078



The 2010 Duck Fair was held on one of the most beautiful days the late summer season had to offer. Compared to hurricanes and persistent rain and drizzle of the last two years, this year's light breezes, warm sunny day and clear skies were a welcome change from the hazy, hot, humid days earlier. You could look across the Susquehanna River and see Turkey Point and the Elk River and Kent County.

Exhibitors were greeted by visitors who began arriving early. The silent auction, the book and purse sale were popular stops for many people. The bake sale had a brisk business all day, selling out by mid-afternoon. The exhibitor area had folks browsing and buying from their favorite artists and vendors.

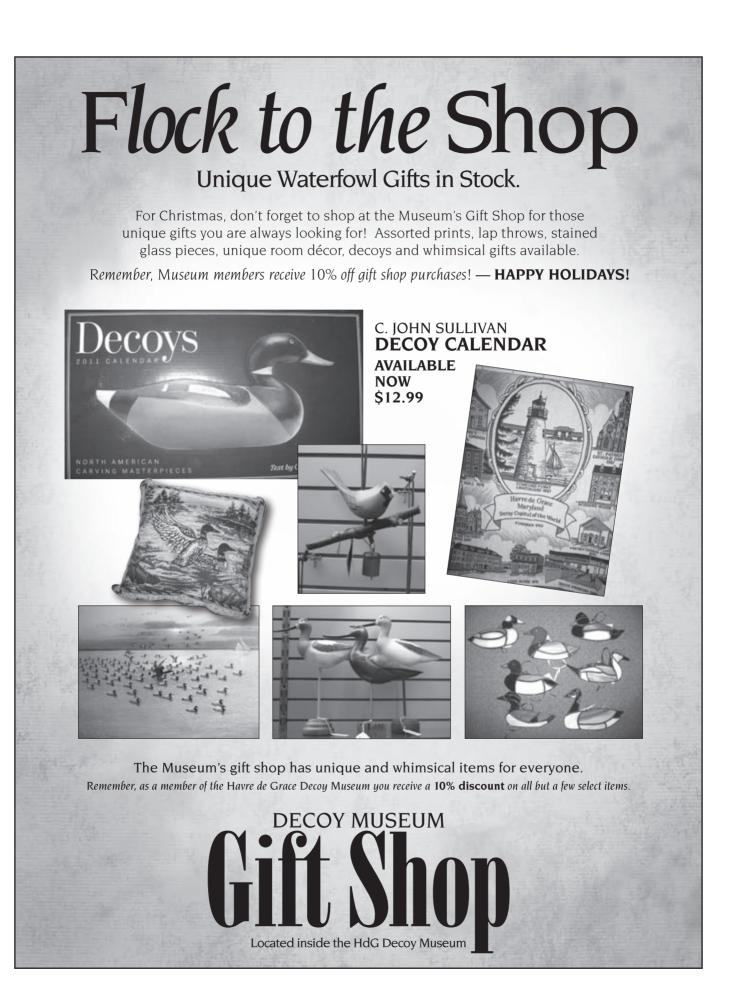
People enjoyed the scenery and the good company. The crowd lingered longer than usual after enjoying the retriever dog demonstrations. The Delta Dog group makes dog training look easy.

The Duck Fair Chairman, Charles Packard, extends his thanks to all the fair volunteers, board members and staff that helped the event run smoothly. Special thanks to Delta Waterfowl for their assistance in setting up tents and especially to this year's Honorary Chairpersons, Joan and Dave Hagan. They were gracious to everyone who stopped to chat or have a copy of their book, Upper Chesapeake Bay Decoys and Their Makers autographed.

I would like to thank two of the Museum's newest volunteers, Alyxandra and Amoryta McClelland. These young ladies are students at Havre de Grace High School and began volunteering at the Museum this summer. Their enthusiasm and willingness to take on whatever task assigned have made them staff favorites. The next time you are in the gift shop and look around you will notice some artfully arranged displays, courtesy of these two ladies.

The Board of Directors and the staff appreciate the invaluable support of all our volunteers and museum patrons. If it has been a while since you have stopped into the Museum, come on in and see the changes that have been made since your last visit. If you missed the Duck Fair this year, check out the photos of the good time had by all. ■

> Story by Margaret Jones Photos by Camille L. Juliana





Baldpate Drake by R. Madison Mitchell

DOWNSIZING: the new "D" word



For quite some time now, various markets have referred to the three D's for the dispersal of just about everything, from real estate, stocks and bonds,

antiques, and yes of course DECOYS. The D's are death, divorce, and debt. But now comes along the newest of the D words, DOWNSIZING.

I hear it more and more often, almost daily among my collector friends. Many years ago I was invited to the home of one of the early well known decoy collectors, Arthur Patterson. Art was contemplating the move to a smaller place. He was selling his collection to fellow collectors a few pieces at a time. He had very strict rules of how he sold things and what he would sell. I was never allowed to buy more than 4 decoys on any one visit. His plan was to "downsize" and to end up with his collection of teal, as they would require less space in a smaller living situation.

On a more recent decoy call, the collector told me that he was getting to the age when he needed to get rid of a few things, i.e., his decoys. He said that he was "downsizing," that he and his wife were at the point in their lives that they were considering moving to one of those asylums. I asked, an "asylum?" He replied "you know what I mean, one of those senior housing

places where they take care of you until the very end." A hard but true statement but one that faces us all if we live long enough.

My own dear mother passed away several months ago and the thought of "downsizing" never crossed her mind. I have been working through the "stuff" in Mom's house almost daily, and the task at times seems never ending. It has struck me in the course of this undertaking that nothing ever left Mom's house with the exception of the daily accumulation of trash. Everything is there — my parents' school papers, my sister's and my school papers from kindergarten through our college days, pay stubs of my grandfather's and my own. It is a lot of stuff. While tiresome and overwhelming, it is a job that must be done, a job that is refreshing in a sense because among the papers and the stuff



18th Annual R.M. Mitchell Endowment TRUST BANQUET

March 11th, 2011 at the Bayou Restaurant





Come Join Us

The Directors of the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust cordially invite you to join us as we celebrate what would have been Mr. Mitchell's 110th Birthday. We are anticipating an exciting evening and looking forward to a successful event. Lou Ward and his staff at the Bayou Restaurant are excellent hosts and are extremely accommodating, and in anticipation of a large crowd for this event have decided to close the main dining room to the public for this event.

The mission of the Trust is to provide a permanent, long range source of annual income to support the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's interpretation, presentation, and acqui-MICHEL

sition of decoys. At the 2010 banquet the highlight of the evening was the presentation of our annual gift to the Decoy Museum AOSTANIA CONTRACTOR OF A CONTR in the amount of \$37,486.74, which was used to pay off the remainder of the "What is a decoy?" exhibit. The Decoy Museum is

now debt free, your unwavering support and dedication made this gift possible. This now brings the total amount of contributions from the Mitchell Trust to the Museum to a grand total of \$170.000.00.

The Endowment continues to have the strong support of the carving and collecting community. Their generosity has been a strong testament to their friendship and respect for Mr. Mitchell. This year is no exception. When Charlie Bryan passed, among the items in his shop he left twenty-five wood duck bodies and heads that had not been assembled. Anna and Charles (Whitey) wanted them to benefit the Decoy Museum. After a suggestion

by Gary and Jean Ross, it was decided they would commission Bill Schauber to finish them in the style of Charlie Bryan. We are proud to announce that these twenty five Wood duck drakes will be featured decovs in this year's lottery.



Continued from page 13

The notes give a sense of personality to the item that I am reviewing and help in making the determination of whether to keep it or not. These notes give this 60-year-old a picture of what his first-grade writing looked like before he got his eyeglasses and then afterwards. I now know what dress my mother wore to her high school graduation and what hat she wore to a friend's wedding.

Decades ago, I recall being in one of the decoy sheds of my friend Henry Fleckenstein and seeing a note written on the underside of one of his decoys as to when he got the decoy, whose decoy it was, and in a few cases what he had paid for it. I recall thinking at the moment of what the point was of that much detail. Why couldn't he just recall those details? Now I know. There are any number of reasons why that was so important to Henry and even more so today.

On one of Patrick Vincenti's first visits to my house, he asked "how do you keep track of all of this stuff?" I replied, "It is all right here" as I gestured to my head. Well the truth of the matter is that it might all be in one's head for awhile but, trust me, it is not going to be there forever. I have been extremely fortunate to have photographed and written about so many items in my own collection that I am now able not just to have it all in my head but also to have it in a magazine article or in a book. I must hope that my heir can recall where dad pictured that decoy or wrote about it and can recollect the details regarding it.

My friend who is moving to the "asylum" knew exactly when and where he bought his decoys. It was easy for him, since each decoy was signed and dated; they all came directly from R. Madison Mitchell, and that information was recorded on the underside by Mr. Mitchell himself. In the same fashion as my grandparents or parents left me the occasional note regarding their stuff, each collector should make notes regarding their own things. Notes and attribution will give more meaning to the item and during the process of "downsizing" will ease some of the pain and hopefully bring the occasional smile to the face of the recipient.

"DOWNSIZING" is a very real D word, and it is something that each of us will face someday. Do something that makes the process meaningful for the recipient of the D word exercise: take photos, make notes, keep an inventory, or maybe even have an appraisal done. None of us can keep it all, and even more so, the details of the stuff can't all be retained "up there" (in your head).

Canvasback Drake by R. Madison Mitchell decorative model

> Goldeneye Drake by R. Madison Mitchell signed and dated 1972. Currently in my collection as the result of Downsizing



MUSEUM NEWS

Carved Pumpkins Decorate Visitor's Deck

story and photos by Margaret Jones

or the last several years decorated pumpkins appear on the visitor's desk in the museum. Some think they are presents from the Great Pumpkin, but everyone knows they are the "coolest" carved pumpkins around.

The Great Pumpkin is not responsible for these "really cool" carved pumpkins. They are the work of Jay Freeman Wright, past board member and good friend of the Museum. Jay will bring in different uniquely and cleverly decorated pumpkins in September and October. These unique works are either the traditional orange variety pumpkin or the "ghost" ones which are white with a slightly green tinge to them.

> No matter the type of pumpkin he uses, he is acknowledged as the carver of the "really cool pumpkins." If you don't believe it, just ask any "kid," young or old, who comes in to visit the Museum this fall. They will tell you the Museum has the coolest ones around!



to all the many Duck Fair Volunteers We could not manage this event without you!

Bob Bendler Leonard Burcham Nora Bye Jennifer Bye Mary Cowan Delta Dogs Leonard & Teri Hamilton Camille L. Juliana Morgan Jones Scott Krieger Henry Krotee Alyxandra McClelland

- Amoryta McClelland Charles Packard Jerry Rutkowski Gary Sargable Madelyn Mitchell Shank Mert Street
- Ellery James Street Upper Chesapeake Chapter of Delta Waterfowl Pat & Jeanne Vincenti Ed Watts



MUSEUM NEWS

"Tools of the Market Hunter"

Photos by Jeff Coats

he Havre de Grace Decoy Museum has a large number of Market Guns on exhibit through a loan from the Fletcher P. Williamson Estate in conjunction with the R. Madison Mitchell Trust. The story of the "Tools of the Market Hunter" was provided by Robert M. Vandiver with photos courtesy of C. John Sullivan.

This exhibit features 10 guns, 7 of which are big shot guns, or sometimes referred to as "punt" guns. The record kill of one of these big shot guns was 79 canvasbacks on the Susquehanna

Flats. These guns were outlawed by the Federal Government and confiscated by 1900.

This collection has been said to be possibly the biggest one in existence. It is currently on display in the library on the second floor of the Museum until the end of this year. Make sure you stop by to see this exquisite collection before it moves on. ■



38th Annual andlelight Source

December 12, 2010

Museum Hours: Noon – 4 p.m. Candlelight Tour: 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. Admission after 4pm requires Candlelight Tour ticket

Candlelíght Tour Tíckets are \$15 and will be available at the museum.

6pm will be the drawing for the Fall Raffle.

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





18th Annual R. M. Mitchell Endowment Trust Banquet

to be held

Friday, March 11, 2011

Join us in celebrating what would have been Madison Mitchell's 110th birthday.

at the

Bayou Restaurant

6:00 pm. Social • 7:00 pm. Dinner 8:00 pm. Program & Award Ceremony

Tickets: \$50.00 per person for more information, call 410-734-6238

or fill out the Reservation Form online by going to www.rmadisonmitchell.com and following the link to the 2011 Banquet Reservations.

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Lem Ward

Canvasback Drake

Circa 1923



MUSEUM NEWS

Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit

Story and photos by Margaret Jones



he Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit is once again on loan to the Decoy Museum. This annual exhibit comes to us each year just after the Duck Fair and is on display for just two weeks. These beautiful original works by middle and high school students are stunning. Here are just a few of the remarkable works on display. Mark your calendar so you will think about coming and viewing these wonderful pieces of art by these very creative and artistic students.



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

"Tools of the Market Gunner" Exhibit featuring a number of punt and battery guns, on loan from the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust, in the Library Potomac Decoy Collector's Association High Head Decoys 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, 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.

OCTOBER 30TH

Halloween Parade! Sponsored by the HdG Recreation Committee. 6:00 pm registration, 6:30 pm Parade. Meet at the corner of Washington St. and Congress Ave. dressed in costume. Join us for a great parade! For more information contact: Karen Green at: 410-939-6724 or email: hdgactivi-tyctr@harfordcountymd.gov

NOVEMBER 5TH

First Fridays Scavenger Hunt! 5-9pm. Enjoy our downtown as you participate in an old-fashioned Scavenger Hunt! Lots of fun for the whole family. For more information contact: Diana Broomell at 410-939-1811 or email: hdgmainstreet@verizon.net or visit their website: http://www. hdgmainstreet.org

NOVEMBER 6TH TO NOVEMBER 7TH

The Lock House Museum Presents: Pirates by the Bay. Sat. 11-5, Sun. 10-3. Visit pirate camps, watch the attacks. Learn the real history of piracy and its connections to Havre de Grace. For more information call: 410-939-5780 or email: director@lockhousemuseum.org or visit their website: http://www.thelockhousemuseum.org

NOVEMBER 11TH

Veteran Day Observances. 11am. Come to Tydings Park to join members of the American Legion in recognition of our veterans. For more information call: 410-939-0234

NOVEMBER 13TH

Founders Day at the Maritime Museum. 11am-8pm. Explore the past ways of life of the first peoples of the Chesapeake through demonstrations and hands-on activities. Celebrate the museum's founding with discounts

in our store. For more information contact the Maritime Museum at 410-939-4800 or email: museum@comcast.net or visit their website: http:// www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org

NOVEMBER 20TH

Historic Nature Walk on North Park Tail. 10am. Enjoy a free, guided nature and historical walk along the North Park Trail. Walk takes about 1 hour. For more information call: 410-939-5780, email: director@lockhousemuseum. org or visit their website: http://www.thelockhousemuseum.org

DECEMBER 3RD

Annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting. 6pm. Join Main Street, Inc. at the corner of Washington Street and St. John Street. Santa is coming to town! For more information contact Diana Broomell at 410-939-1811, email: hdg-mainstreet@verizon.net or visit their website: http://www.hdgmainstreet.org

DECEMBER 4TH TO DECEMBER 5TH

Christmas Open House at Steppingstone Farm Museum.12-4pm. Enjoy a free tour of the historic farmhouse decorated in the theme of The Nutcracker. Enjoy holiday music, cookies and cider. Admission is free. For more information call: 410-939-2299 or 888-419-1762, email: steppingstonemuseum@ msn.com or visit their website: http://www.steppingstonemuseum.org

DECEMBER 4TH

Christmas Tea to Benefit the Skipjack Martha Lewis. 1pm. Join us for the 4th Annual Christmas Tea held at the Vandiver Inn. An elegant tea fit for royalty (hats optional). Advance ticket purchase required. For more information contact: Cindi Beane at 410-939-1151, email: director@chesapeakeheritage.org or visit website: http://www.chesapeakeheritage.org

-S Calendar of Events

DECEMBER 11TH TO DECEMBER 12TH	DECEMBER 12TH TO DECEMBER 25TH
Christmas Boutique at the Susquehanna Lock House Museum. Sat. 9-close, Sun. noon-8pm. Historic setting for hand-crafted traditional holiday shopping. One of a kind items, fresh greens. For more information call: 410-939-5780, email: director@lockhousemuseum.org or visit their website: http://www.thelockhousemuseum.org	Susquehanna Ministerium's 12th Annual Outdoor Nativity Scene Contest. Register by calling the Susquehanna Ministerium by Dec. 13th to be recognized for Residential or business Awards. Open to the greater HdG community. For more information call: 410-939-5233
	DECEMBER 26TH
DECEMBER 12TH	Susquehanna Ministerium Presents: HdG Church Tour. 2-4pm. Enjoy
Maritime Christmas. 10am-8pm. Celebrate Christmas in Maritime style! Enjoy seasonal food tastings, music and demonstrations. Benefit from a 15% discount on all items in the Museum Store along with book signings - a great gift idea! For more information call: 410-939-4800, email: museum@	a self-guided tour of the churches of Havre de Grace. To obtain a list of participating churches, contact: HdG Methodist Church at 101 S. Union Avenue. Phone: 410-939-2464
comcast.net or visit their website: http://www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org	DECEMBER 31ST
38th Annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Havre de Grace. 4-8pm. Tour historic homes and buildings. Enjoy the illuminated streets of Havre de Grace. Admission is \$15. For more information call: 410-939-5780, email: director@lockhousemuseum.org or visit their website: http://www.thelock-	New Year's Eve Duck Drop & Fireworks. Close to midnight! Begin the countdown to 2011 by enjoying the annual Duck Drop and Fireworks celebration at 451 Lewis Lane (on the grounds of the Activity Center & HdG

Middle School) For more information call: 410-939-2100, email: brigitteP@ havredegracemd.com or visit their website: http://www.hdgtourism.com

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 decoymuseum@yahoo.com

Have You Got What it Takes to be a Volunteer?

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

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

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

Contact 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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