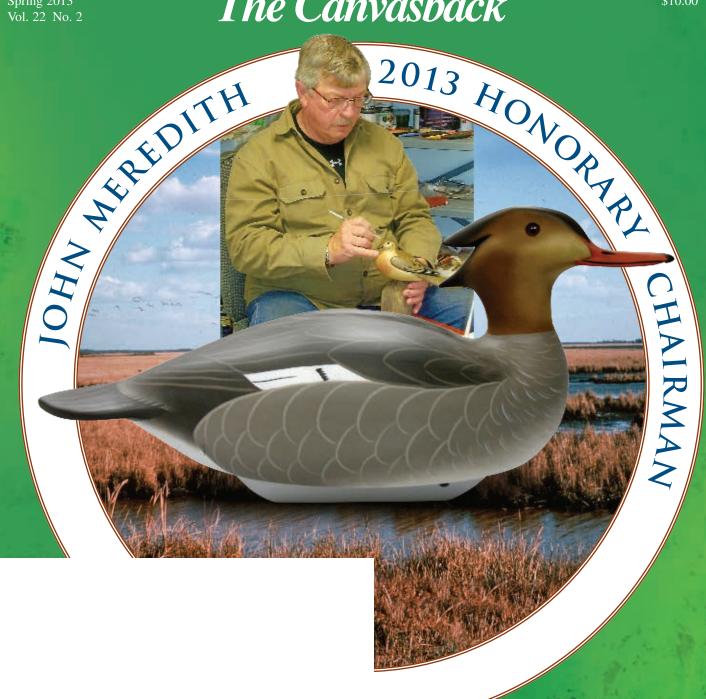
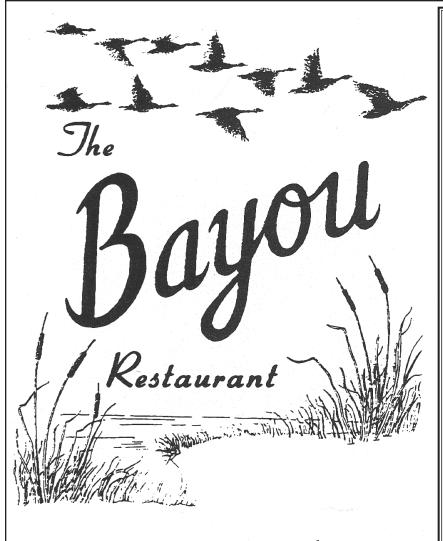
32ND ANNUAL HAVRE DE GRACE

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Spring 2013

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can•vas•back (kan'ves bak'), n.,pl. -backs, (esp. collectively) — back.

1. a north american wild duck, the male of which has a whitish back and a reddish-brown head and neck. 2. a style of decoy made famous by carvers of the Susquehanna Flats region. 3. a quarterly publication of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.



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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.

The Museum was incorporated in 1981 as a 501(c)(3) 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. Contributions made to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Tax may be deductible.



ABOUT THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the special "Festival Issue" of *The Canvasback*. The Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival draws exhibitors from all over the country and is fun for all ages.

This year's Decoy Festival on May 3rd through the 5th promises to be a very exciting weekend because it coincides with the city-wide festivities that are part of the Maryland War



of 1812 Bicentennial Commission's commemoration of the devastating 1813 British attack on Havre de Grace. There will be a parade, re-enactments, and other fun and interesting events.

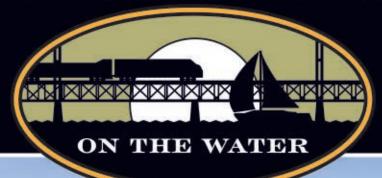
Mayor Wayne Dougherty and the City Council of Havre de Grace, together with the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, have very generously made it possible for the Decoy Museum to offer FREE ADMISSION to the Decoy Festival this year as part of the weekend's other commemorative events.

We hope this special issue will enrich your experience. See you the first weekend in May!

ON THE COVER

John Meredith, the Honorary Chairman of the 32nd annual Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival, is shown in his shop putting the finishing touches on one of his creations. In the background are his beloved marshes of lower Dorchester County, Maryland. In the foreground is a red-breasted merganser hen, which was the first waterfowl species he crafted as a decoy when he was only 12-years old. Turn to page 15 to learn more about John.

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From the President

Dear Museum Member.

The spring issue of *The Canvasback* is always very dear to my heart because it is the special annual issue for the Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival. This year's Festival will be very exciting since it coincides with the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial commemoration events.

Mayor Wayne Dougherty, the City Council, the Department of Tourism, and the Bicentennial Commission have made it possible for us to offer free admission this year

as part of the bicentennial events.

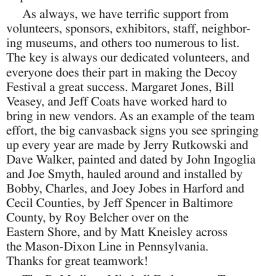




Photo by Leo Heppner

The R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust banquet in March brought us two welcome gifts. Thanks to Don Sellers for a Thompson-built bushwhack boat used by Jim Sellers and now on display. And for a generous cash grant from Delta Waterfowl, we thank Bill Sanders from the Central Maryland Chapter, Matt Kneisley from the Lancaster County (PA) Chapter, and East Coast Regional Director Chris Williams for their loyal support.

I am also very happy to introduce the newest member of our Board of Directors, Ed Funk. Ed is now retired from a long career in business and will focus on developing relationships with corporate sponsors. He will also be a great addition to our Long Range Planning Committee.

Our members, volunteers, and other supporters have their own challenges in these troubled times —and we know that—but you are there for us. All the things you do add up. Because of you we are open 360 days a year, we are part of the community, we are building the collection, and we are constantly improving the visitor experience.

I look forward to the Festival on May 3–5 and to seeing all of our visitors. Again, thanks to all of you for everything you do!

Sincerely,

Pat Vincenti

taih Vincent



мау 3rd, 4th & 5th

Locations

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

2013 Honorary Chairman John Weredith

Admission: FREE

Friday, May 3

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. . . Show opens

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. . . Carving Competition

Registration

AC

Saturday, May 4

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. . . Show

9:00 a.m. Outdoor Hunting Show

АC

Artisan Crafters

Ongoing events, see posted schedules

located around venues

10:00 a.m. Old Decoy Contest

Registration opens

MS stage

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. . Raptors

MS: Inside near rear admission entrance

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Silent Auction

MS Hallway by front admission entrance

10:30 a.m. Atlantic Flyway Classic Carving

Competition Judging

HdG Activity Center

Decorative L/S Floating Division

Decorative L/S Non-Floating

Division

Decorative Miniature Division

Whitey Frank Decorative Slick

Division

Decorative L/S Fish Division

Youth Gunning Division

Cocktail Division

Shorebird Division

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. . . Silent Auctions

MS: Across from Front Admission Desk Facing Revolution Street

1:00 p.m..... Gunning Rig Division

DM Grounds

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. . Old Decoy Contest

Winners Displayed

MS stage

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. . Retriever Dog Demonstrations

MS front field facing Revolution Street

1:00 p.m. Live Auction Preview

MS Stage

4:00 p.m.... Live Auction Bidder

Registration

MS Stage

5:30 p.m. Live Decoy Auction

AC (Sponsored by Hostetter

Insurance)

Sunday, May 5

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. . Show

10:00 a.m. Outdoor Hunting Show

AC

Artisan Crafts

Ongoing events, see posted schedules

located around venues

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

10:30 a.m. Carving Competition Judging

AC

Gunning Decoy Division

10:30 a.m. River Gunning Decoy

Division

DM Grounds

11:00 a.m. River Gunning Division

DM Grounds

3:30 p.m. Festival Raffle Drawing

MS Lobby

4:00 p.m. Festival Closes

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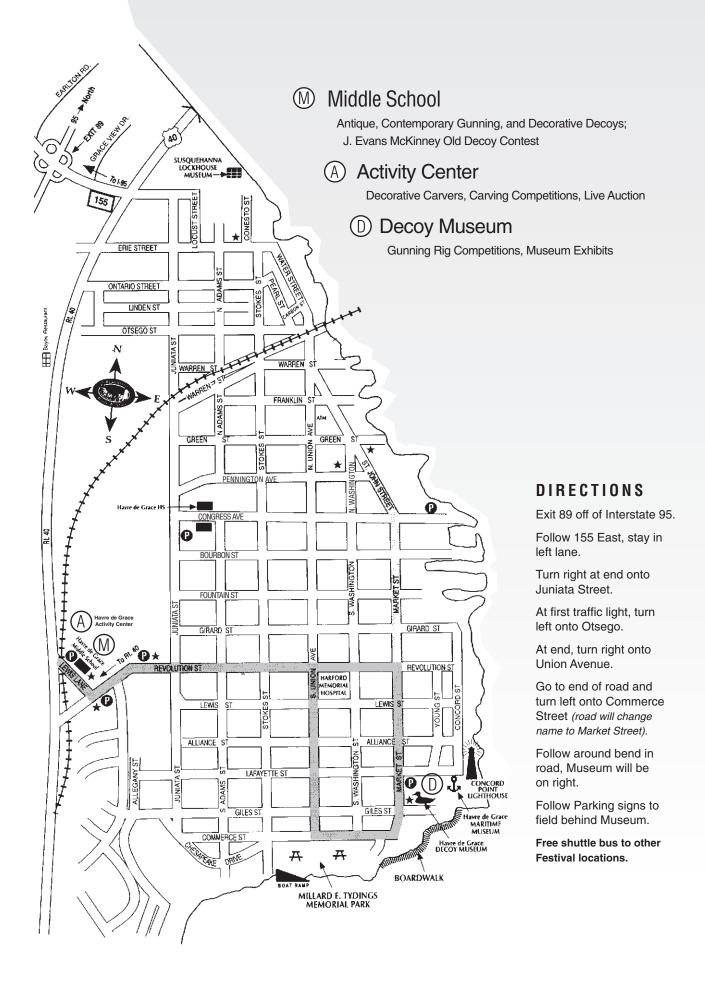
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7





Drawings will take place at 3:30 pm. Sunday, May 5th, 2013, during the 32nd Annual Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival at the Havre de Grace Middle School.

Tickets are \$5.00 each, 6 for \$25.00 or 10 for \$40

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM AND HAVE BEEN MAILED TO MEMBERS.

For more information, please call the Museum at 410-939-3739

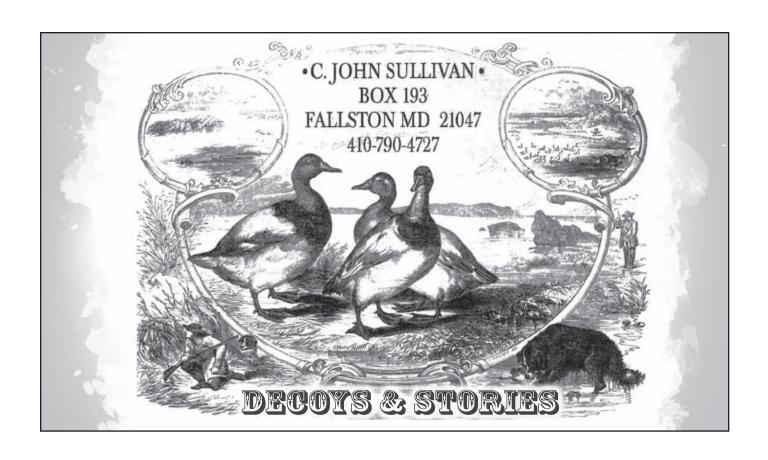
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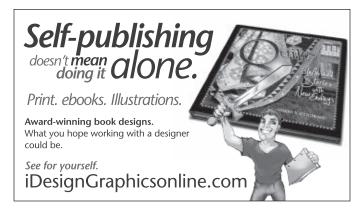
AUTOGRAPHS

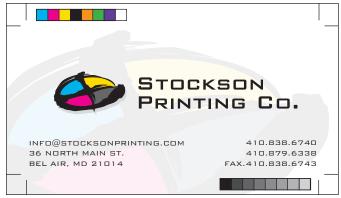
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1985	No Chairman	
1986	Robert Litzenberg [DECEASED]	Bobus & Litzenberg
1987	Charles Joiner	
1988	Captain Harry Jobes	
1989	Captain Bill Collins	
1990	Captain Roger Urie [DECEASED]	
1991	James Pierce	
1992	James Currier [DECEASED]	James a Burner
1993	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	
1997	Ronald Rue [DECEASED]	

AUTOGRAPHS

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 Melson Barnard
2002	Patrick Vincenti	
2003	Ned Mayne	
2004	Grayson Chesser	
2005	Jim Britton	
2006	George Williams	
2007	Joseph Coudon [DECEASED]	Joseph Condon
2008	Bryon Bodt	O
2009	Bill Veasey	
2010	Dave Walker	
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2013	John Meredith	









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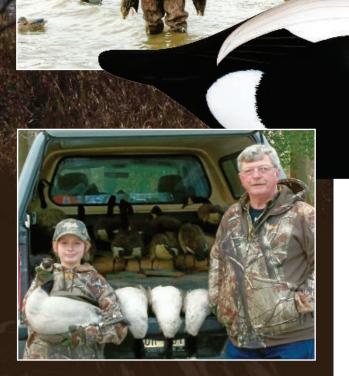
OTIS IRWIN

2013 HONORARY CHAIRMAN

John Meredith

A tribute by a fellow carver

— Written with warmth and great respect by 2009 Honorary Chairman Bill Veasey—



John Meredith, Honorary Chairman of the 2013 Havre de Grace Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival, was born in 1946 in the tiny pastoral village of Toddville on Maryland's Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

It was in this area, south of Cambridge and just west of Fishing Bay, that John's grandfather taught him to trap and fish on the extensive marshes created where the meandering Blackwater and Transquaking Rivers end their journey across Dorchester County to the bay. The vastness of the marshes and their stunning beauty always reminded John of the scenes of Midwestern wheat fields. He clearly feels blessed to have seen so many sunrises and sunsets over these wetlands and describes them quite simply as, "Great to behold".

— Continues on page 14—

Meredith Continued from page 13

And there is also the history. The marshes show signs of the earliest human habitation where Native Americans settled on the many islands, and there are later signs of the extensive timbering that was done in centuries past. Watching the deer, John learned as a young man that access to Guinea Island could still be made by what remained of an old log or corduroy road through the marsh.

Uncountable muskrats and skies clouded with ducks were the everyday sights for John in his early years, and the skills that he learned then have served him well. Back when he was actively trapping, John tells of routinely bringing in hundreds of muskrats each day that provided meat, pelts, and the musk itself for the perfume industry.

John relates, "These marshes, bays, and creeks are so full of life and have brought me great joy. I feel very blessed and happy just to be here surrounded by Mother Nature. This is as close to God as you can get in this life."

He has enjoyed the life of a true Eastern Shoreman with the freedom to roam the large expanses of marshland and experience their bounty. Things have changed a bit over the years, but the memories persist and John's excitement over the marshes—still teeming with life—endures.

He tells of guiding news and film crews. In one instance the producer confided that she couldn't imagine why he loved the marshes because, "There is nothing here." He reached down to the toe of her shoe to point out a root on which a muskrat recently had been feeding. After several hours of John's patient tutelage and seeing the footprints and other subtle but unmistakable signs of abundance, she finally admitted, "I get it."

John is much like his beloved wetlands, and a bit of exploring and probing reveals subtle fascinations. This Eastern Shore history and his life experiences are deep in his soul, and it is from these that John finds his muse—his inspiration.

John has been both carving decoys and guiding hunters for over 50 years. John related that, "In 1962 I began to work for

large hunting clubs, managing many very prominent properties. I was exceptionally lucky to have hunted over and collected some of the wooden decoys made by the great masters. And looking over some of the old ones I can't help but think: *If only they could talk*."

John carved his first decoys in 1958, the year he turned twelve. Those decoys were a hunting rig of red-breasted mergansers to be used at the Bishop Head area of the Hooper Straights. Asked why he started to carve, the answer was as quick as it was simple. *Necessity*. John was hunting with some "old fellows" who told him if he wanted hunt with them, he was going to need to contribute some decoys to the rig.

There was no money to buy decoys. Foraging for and restoring lost decoys was one option that worked for a while, but learning to carve was clearly an imperative. He went to a local boat shop where some of the old guys drew out designs for him, gave him a rasp and some other tools, and showed him how to cut and carve and to shape heads and bodies out of cedar. The "old fellows" in his hunting party showed him how to paint.





John putting the finishing touches on a little dove

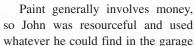
Red-Breasted Merganser Drake



John Meredith's typical display at shows; from wood-peckers to herons, and everything in between.



John beginning to shape a block of wood with a draw knife



or barn. As an indication of his resourcefulness as a twelve-year old budding decoy carver, John was faced with a lack of reddish-orange paint for the bills of his first red-breasted mergansers. One obvious and convenient solution was his mother's fingernail polish. We can only assume that did not end well, but it did result in some acceptable decoys. As the saying goes: *The rest is history*.

"Carving decoys has always been a part of me," says John. Asked what carvers most influenced his style, John says that he always finds something interesting and useful in everyone's work. "I am basically self-taught but have always had an open mind and was quick to learn by observation the works of the many masters, past and present." Pressed, he names the Ward brothers and Charlie Joiner as key influences.

— Continues on page 16—

Meredith Continued from page 15

Charlie Joiner—"There could not be a greater person..."—gave him many tips on painting and carving that contributed to his style.

I hasten to add to his modest explanation that John has long been a member of that "Masters Club." Few people have achieved his level of accomplishment, certainly in carving, and especially in painting, but more importantly in terms of character. There are many who share these convictions about John.

A lesser known passion of this modest man is his devotion to this country and the men and women who serve in the military. John spent nine years in the United States Army, and he could also have been very happy to have made that a career.

All too often our young people are called to serve in armed conflict, and they frequently pay a high price. I recently became aware of a little-known tradition in the Pentagon when buses bring servicemen and women from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for what is called the "wounded warrior march". Pentagon staff of every branch and rank line the corridors and honor these men and women with thunderous applause as they are escorted through the building to be honored at a lunch hosted by the generals and admirals.

This is laudable, and in my view it is an extension of their job. It is not an extension of John Meredith's job, but each and every hunting season this humble Eastern Shore guide is part of a small group of patriotic Eastern Shoreman who muster the wounded warriors in their area (about 15) to honor them with a full day of hunting on a private preserve near Rock Hall that is owned by one of their sponsors. It is no small matter. They shoot pheasants and geese. They lay out a sumptuous barbeque with things like chicken and shrimp and all the fixins. Later in the day they hunt ducks. Everyone looks forward to it, they have a ball, and it gives John a sense of fulfillment.

Hunting in John's early years was primarily canvasbacks and blackducks with some buffleheads taken, too. So these ducks were also created as decoys. There were few Canada geese to be seen



John Meredith holds the Festival decoy: A common Eider drake

in those years, as they rarely ventured this far south. They were such a curiosity that John recalls taking one to the country store in Toddville to show it off.

But times change and the balance has shifted. The "cans" are few and the Canadas are abundant. (A short walk across the lawn at the Decoy Museum will convince you that abundance is not always a good thing.) John opines that the goose hunt the past two years has been disappointing and that if warmer winters persist we may see a long-term shift to the north in the geese migration patterns.

The common eider is a sea duck generally regarded as an Arctic bird that also typically winters farther up the East Coast in the Canadian Maritimes and

New England. They are not often seen in this area and are not a familiar species for local carvers to make. John admits that he has never seen one, but he received a large order to make a gunning rig of them for a hunter in Maine—all hollow carved. Collectors saw his eiders and wanted some, too!

This is a tribute to John's reputation as well as an indication of how his skills and interests have evolved over the years. It is fitting that his common eider was chosen to be on the poster and the button for this year's Havre de Grace Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival.

John began doing wildlife art shows, such as our own Decoy Festival, in the 1970's. With the popularity of this form

of folk art he says that people are buying everything he can make. He now finds it increasingly difficult to prepare properly for shows while at the same time keeping up with orders and sales.

Red-breasted mergansers, the first duck John made, are still his favorite decoys to carve. In fact, he collects them. Red-breasted mergansers are generally not regarded as either a good eating duck or one that commonly appears in gunning rigs. For one who immerses himself in the beauty of the Eastern Shore, John's singular reasoning is totally expected: "It's a pretty duck."

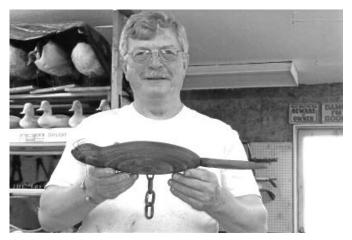
John has made a few round-bottomed decoys, but almost all of his decoys are flat-bottomed, which is a style typical of many Eastern Shore carvers. He does not use a duplicating lathe, and all of his decoys are hand chopped. Starting with a rectangular block of wood, he first shapes them on his band saw. He then finishes the decoy with a draw knife, spokeshave, and electric sander.

In addition to his wonderful classic decoys, John also makes other animals that have been a familiar sight to him in the marshes. He makes full-size herons and egrets. A recent addition to his repertoire is—unsurprisingly—the muskrat! John's whimsical muskrat has become such a popular item that many buyers even wanted baby muskrats to go with the full-size ones.

He also is creating a line of miniature decoys. From experience, those of us who carve find it much more difficult to do miniatures than full size. The size makes it harder to hold with big, worn down, arthritic hands. No matter how much you love what you do, Mother Nature is relentless and the years take their toll.

John's artistic skills extend beyond wildlife. He is also an accomplished stone carver who has participated in the exacting business of tombstone carving for over 30 years.

John has no idea how many decoys he has turned out since those first mergansers in 1958 (nail polish on a duck!), but these days he is producing about 400 annually. Reflecting on his experience, he reports, "I can truly say that it has been a great privilege to be a part of the history and the folklore of the great Eastern



John's whimsical interpretation of a Dorchester County muskrat

Shore. It is not often that one can make a living doing something they love doing."

If you are looking for John, he can be found in his shop in Worton seven days a week doing what he loves—creating gunning and decorative decoys and other wildlife art. The only exceptions to this rule will be during hunting season when he is again out on his beloved marshes every single day or if perhaps he is called to one of the local cemeteries with his mighty sand blaster to carve memories in granite rather than wood.

My advice to both the seasoned collector and the brand new collector-to-be: If you have the opportunity to buy one of John's creations, jump on it. Treat yourself to a piece of history and especially to a pair of his red-breasted mergansers. If you cannot do it at this point, then simply stop by John's table at the Festival and treat yourself to a chat. It will be well worth your time to discover some new fascination from his full and interesting life. Like that film producer, you will "get it", too.

John wishes it to be known how grateful he is to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum to be honored in this way, and we are equally grateful to be honored by him with his loyal support and his unwavering friendship.



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Exhibitors continued on page 20

Exhibitors continued from page 19

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Exhibitors continued on page 22

Exhibitors continued from page 21

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Exhibitors continues on page 30



Stop by the Museum Gift Shop During the Festival

Be sure to check out special Festival sale items and other top sellers. New hoodies, colorful new tee shirts, and colorful hats with embroidered logos have been flying off the racks.



Members of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum receive a 10% discount on all but a few select items.

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6th Annual Susquehanna Flats Vintage Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Show

by Jim Trimble

A wintry blast of sleet and snow from the evening before did not deter vendors or crowds from this year's show, held January 26th at the Level Volunteer Fire Company banquet hall, just outside of Havre de Grace, Maryland. Emphasis was on vintage collectibles, with show organizers Chuck Usilton and Pat Vincenti, both seasoned upper Chesapeake Bay collectors, telling vendors to leave the new stuff at home.

Vendor table count was roundly 100, with show proceeds benefitting the Level VFC and the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. The venue was well lit and spacious. Raffles and door prize drawings were held throughout the day. In addition to antique decoys and fishing equipment, oyster items, shell boxes, guns, powder tins, and books were also in the offering.

Aisles were crowded early morning as collectors worked their way through mostly old upper Chesapeake Bay decoys. Along the way, they re-connected and gabbed with similar minded collectors, mostly about their passion for chasing wooden ducks.

North Carolina vendor David O'Neal, in addition to his table of primarily southern birds, had a nice offering of recently acquired and new to the market Maryland decoys. O'Neal's decoys included birds by early makers Ben Dye, Daddy Holly,

Jim Holly, Sam Barnes, and others, some with unusual impressed number 3 brands.

Virginia vendor Gary Campbell displayed primarily Virginia decoys, with a fine Ira Hudson black duck in the offering. One bird on his table that caught the attention of several Potomac Decoy Collectors Association members was a fine, early, diminutive ruddy duck made by Potomac River guide and decoy maker Albert Campbell. The decoy changed hands and returned to its Potomac River roots.

Waterfowl historian/vendor John Sullivan displayed several early and unusual decoy maker species in fine paint that included an oldsquaw threesome by maker Ben Dye, as well as goldeneyes by makers Jim Holly and Sam Barnes. Sullivan, as a volunteer for the Havre de Grace Museum, also spent part of his day identifying decoys and answering historical waterfowling questions.

This annual show jump-starts the new year of decoy shows for the mid-Atlantic collector. One noticeable difference in this year's crowd, and to some extent the vendors, was the color purple being worn in support of Maryland's beloved Baltimore Ravens, who, as of this show date, were one week away from winning Super Bowl XLVII.



Part of John Sullivan's display of unique species decoys (for these carvers) by Maryland early carvers Ben Dye and Sam Barnes.



Maryland vendor Capt. Vernon Bryant holding a Ben Dye Civil War era redhead. Vernon is also the president of the Upper Bay Museum.



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Miniature Mallard signed Jessie Urie



Mallard Drake Unknown Carver Miniature Teal Pair



Muller Drake Canvasback



Miniature canvasback by J. Urie



Fishing lures by Bob Knott



¾ size Teal by Capt Bob Jobes



Miniature Canada Goose by Jessie Urie



Snow Goose by Jimmy Pierce



Mallard Hen by Dave Walker



Minature Merganser



Widgeon Hen by Jim Pierce



Muller Hen Canvasback



Muller Swan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Festival Chairman Patrick Vincenti
Festival Coordinator Margaret Jones

Museum Curator C. John Sullivan

Live Auction Virginia Sanders

Silent Auction Pat Hockman

Nora Bye Mary Cowan

Volunteer Coordinator Madelyn Shank

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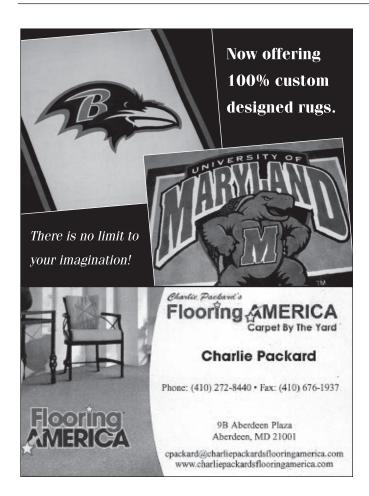
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Special Programs Delta Dogs

Old Decoy Contest

Jim Trimble
Joe Engers







Exhibitors continued from page 23

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Exhibitors continues on page 33

J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest 2013 COMPETITION

The 11th annual J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest will be held on Saturday, May 4th at the Middle School Gym in conjunction with the 2013 Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival. Entries will be accepted at the stage area from 10:00 a.m. until judging at noon. Joe Engers, Editor and Publisher of Decoy Magazine, will head up a three-member judge's panel, and a blue ribbon will be awarded for each of the following ten competition category winners.

- 1. Best Upper Bay Goose
- 2. Best Ben or Joe Dye Decoy
- 3. Best Jim Currier Canvasback
- 4. Best John Graham/ Family Decoy
- 5. Best Holly Family Decoy
- 6. Best Hooper's Island Merganser
- 7. Best "Oldest" Wooden
 Decoy from the
 Mid-Atlantic Region
- 8. Best Virginia Bluebill
- Best Delaware River Black Duck
- 10. Best Unknown

Rules: Last year's winning birds are ineligible for entry, regardless of category. There will be no restrictions as to those who can participate or number of categories entered; however participants are restricted to no more than three birds per category and each decoy will be limited to one category only. Participants must make a good faith effort to ensure that all decoy entries were made prior to 1950. Matched pairs entered in other than a Matched Pair category will be considered as one entry. Competition decoys will be kept in a highly visible roped-off secure area and will not be handled by the public. At approximately 1:00p.m., the public will be invited to review the roped off and secured tables once the judges have made their selections. The three-judge panel will also select a best in show winner.

Winners are requested to display their decoys and ribbons at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum for three months.

Competition issues will be resolved at the sole discretion of the contest chairman and judge's panel. Any questions, please contact contest chairman Jim Trimble (703-768-7264 or potomacduck@cox.net).



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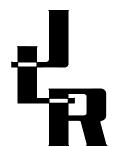
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Highlights of the Decoy Museum's Current Exhibits

The new Jim Pierce display \ A homemade duplicating lathe for making miniature decoy bodies donated by "Pop"
Sampson \ "Letters to Bob McGaw "from Joel B. Pusey \ A beautiful decorative Eastern Blue Bird carved by master carver
Barb Wachter \ The magnificent Michael bequest: an extraordinary pair of "Daddy" Holly canvasbacks \ "Tools of the
Market Gunner" exhibit featuring a number of punt and battery guns, on loan from the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment
Trust \ Potomac Decoy Collector's Association Exhibit \ An exhibit of Factory Decoys, donated by Dr. M. Kramer \
A beautiful decorative canvasback family made by master carver J. Noble Mentzer



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.



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

MAY 3RD TO MAY 5TH

The Decoy Museum Presents: 32nd Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival: Friday 6-9pm, Saturday 9-5pm, Sunday 10-4pm. Festival features 125 Decoy Carvers, Artists, Commercial Outfitters and Guide Services will be displaying and selling their works. Retriever Dog Demonstrations, Auctions, Food and Children's Activities. For information call 410-939-3739 or see www.decoymuseum.com. Free admission.

Attack on Havre De Grace Commemoration Weekend: The weekend begins with the arrival of Tall Ships on Friday afternoon and "First Fridays" on Friday evening. Continuing with an adventure packed Saturday to include a Reenactment, Tall Ship tours, Military March through town and a Free concert performance by the Columbia Orchestra concluded with fireworks. Sunday will begin with The Red Coat Run 5k race, followed by a Kayak Poker Run and a circa 1800 Service at St. John's Church. Mark your calendars, this is sure to be an exciting weekend in HdG!! For information call 410-939-2100 or see www.hdgtourism.com

MAY 3RD

HdG Main Street Presents: First Fridays!: 5pm- 9pm. Enjoy a family friendly, festive celebration on closed downtown streets. Live entertainment, cafe seating, merchant specials and more! For information call 410-939-1811 or see www.mainstreethdg.com/

Revenue Cutter Service, the United States Coast Guard in the War of 1812: 7pm-8pm. Bill Nelson from the USCG Atlantic Area Historians Office will present a 30 minute presentation on the Revenue Cutter Services role in defending our Nation during the War of 1812. Also learn how the Revenue Cutter Missions of the 1800's parallel today's Coast Guard/Department of Homeland Security Mission. For information call the Maritime Museum at 410-939-4800.

MAY 4TH

Free Comic Book Day: Get your FREE comic book at Washington Street Books and Music, 131 Washington Street or Just for Fun, 464 Franklin Street.

MAY 11TH TO MAY 12TH

Medieval Days: 11am-4pm. Event features a Medieval encampment with fighting and fencing demonstrations, period crafts, music and dance, children's games, food, tours and more! For information call 410-939-2299 or see www.steppingstonemuseum.org/

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MAY 16TH

Ellsworth B. Shank Lecture Series: 7pm. Held at HdG City Hall, 711 Pennington Ave. "Historical APG" presented by Jeff Smart the RDECOM Command Historian. For information call 410-939-5780 or see www.the-lockhousemuseum.org/

MAY 18TH

Havre de Grace Secret Garden Tour : 12-5:00pm. Come and see lovely gardens both large and small in historic Havre de Grace. Fundraiser for the Maritime Museum. For information call 410-939-4800 or see www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org

North Park Trail Walk: 10am. This guided nature and historic walk is free to the public. Distance 1.5 miles in 90 minutes. Meet at the Lock House, 817 Conesteo Street. For information call 410-939-5780 or see www.thelockhousemuseum.org/

MAY 27TH

Memorial Day Event: 9am-11am. Memorial Day observances begin at Angel Hill Cemetery at 9am and then proceed to Tydings Memorial Park at 11am. For information call 410-939-0234

JUNE 7TH TO JUNE 8TH

American Cancer Society: Relay for Life, Havre De Grace: Friday 7 pm through Saturday 7am. This overnight event raises funds to support the American Cancer Society and celebrates cancer survivors. See www.relayforlife.org/havredegrace

JUNE 7TH

Hdg Main Street Presents: First Fridays!: 5pm-9pm. Enjoy a family friendly, festive celebration on closed downtown streets. Live entertainment, cafe seating, merchant specials and more! For information call 410-939-1811 or see www.mainstreethdg.com/

JUNE 8TH TO JUNE 9TH

Celtic Festival: 11am-4pm. Annual Celtic Festival featuring pipe band music, Celtic music, dancing and singing, sheepherding, clan gatherings, vendors, military regiment, food, tours and more! For information call 410-939-2299 or see www.steppingstonemuseum.org/

JUNE 8TH

Upper Chesapeake Hospice Regatta: 6pm-10pm. Delicious dinner donated by Texas Roadhouse, beer and soda provided, cash bars for wine and specialty drinks. Evening begins with the Sailboat Race and is then followed by dinner and fabulous live and silent auctions, raffles, live entertainment and dancing and fun gaming wheels. Supports the Senator Bob Hooper Residential Hospice in Forest Hill. For information call 443-643-3460 or see www.uchs.org

JUNE 15TH

ANNUAL SPORTING CLAY CLASSIC (Sponsored by The HdG Decoy Museum): The HdG Decoy Museum invites you to this 75 target 3 Lewis Class sporting Clay shoot. Shoot will be held at Pintail Point in Queenstown, MD. For information call 410-939-3739 or see www.decoymuseum.com/

JUNE 15TH TO JUNE 16TH

Civil War Encampment: 11am-4pm. The Civil War Encampment returns to Steppingstone this year to commemorate the sesquicentennial. Reenactors will display camp life in the civil was era and re-enact battle skirmishes. For information call 410-939-2299 or see www.steppingstonemuseum.org/

JUNE 20TH

Ellsworth B. Shank Lecture Series: 7pm. Held at HdG City Hall, 711 Pennington Ave. "Using archaeology to bring local history to life" presented by Ann Persson. Contact: Susquehanna Museum of HdG at the Lock House or see www.thelockhousemuseum.org/

JUNE 22ND

Blues Festival: 2-8pm. Come to the Steppingstone Farm Museum to enjoy live blues music by local, regional & national acts. Food, beer and wine for sale; artisans in an outdoor setting. Rain or Shine event. Advance tickets sold. For information call 410-939-2299 or see www.steppingstonemuseum.org/

JULY 2ND TO JULY 6TH

Havre De Grace Independence Celebration Carnival: Bring the family to the annual Independence Celebration Carnival! Rides and attractions for all ages. For information call 410-939-2100 or see havredegracejuly4.org/

JULY 5TH

Hdg Main Street Presents: First Fridays!: 5pm-9pm. Enjoy a family friendly, festive celebration on closed downtown streets. Live entertainment, cafe seating, merchant specials and more! For information call 410-939-1811 or see www.mainstreethdg.com/

JULY 6TH

Annual Havre De Grace Parade & Fireworks: Parade 2pm, Concert 7pm, 9:15pm Fireworks. Parade begins at 2pm on Union Avenue. Concert will be at 7pm and Fireworks at Tydings Park to follow at approximately 9:15pm. For information call 410-939-2100 or see havredegracejuly4.org/

JULY 12TH

Pirate Fest Weekend! Pirate Pub Crawl: 7pm. Put on your best swashbuckling attire and join in with the Pirates as you visit some of HdG's finest pubs. There will be treasure hunts and prizes along the way. For information call 410-939-5780 or see www.thelockhousemuseum.org/

JULY 13TH TO JULY 14TH

Pirate Fest Weekend- Pirate Encampment: 10:00-4:00. Discover where the first act of piracy occurred here in our state! Visit an authentic Pirate Encampment, complete with skirmishes, music, period clothing and demonstrations. For information call 410-939-5780 or see www.thelockhouse-museum.org/

JULY 13TH

Pirate Fest 5k Run: 8am. The 4th annual Pirate 5K is run along a fast and flat certified course that takes you along Havre de Grace's historic Lafayette Trail and beautiful views of the Susquehanna River. Price: \$20 early bird/\$25 regular and day of event. For information call 410-939-5780 or see www. thelockhousemuseum.org/

Pirate Fest Weekend—6th Annual Pirate Gala: 7:00-11:00 PM. You'll discover that no one parties like the Pirates when you attend the Gala of the Summer! Come in your best pirate finery and expect an evening filled with live music, vitttles and grog. For information call 410-939-5780 or see www. thelockhousemuseum.org/

AUGUST 2ND

Hdg Main Street: Presents First Fridays!: 5pm- 9pm. Enjoy a family friendly, festive celebration on closed downtown streets. Live entertainment, cafe seating, merchant specials and more! For information call 410-939-1811 or see www.mainstreethdg.com/

AUGUST 9TH TO AUGUST 11TH

Havre De Grace Seafood Festival: Friday 3-8, Saturday 10-8, Sunday 10-6. Food, fun and live entertainment on the Chesapeake. Over 100 juried artisans/ seafood delicacies from the bay and beyond. Car Show added on Sunday. For information call 410-939-1525 or see www.hdgseafoodfestival.org/

AUGUST 9TH

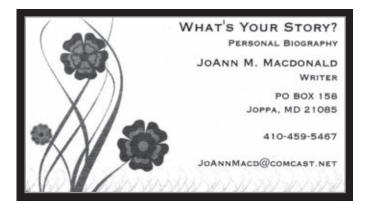
Live Concert Featuring The Oak Ridge Boys: 6:30pm. Live concert with limited ticket admission; very limited VIP admission. Performers TBA For information call 410-939-1525 or see www.hdgseafoodfestival.org/

AUGUST 16TH TO AUGUST 18TH

50th Annual Havre De Grace Art Show: Friday 5pm-9pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am-5pm. Celebrating 50 Years of Art with Juried Artists & Craftsmen from throughout the U.S. in Tydings Park overlooking the mouth of the Susquehanna River & headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. For the whole Family. Entertainment, Food, Handicap Accessible, Boat Accessible. For information call 410-939-9342 or see www.hdgartshow.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

www.hdgtourism.com









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