

# *The Canvasback*

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

Fall 2013  
Vol. 23 No. 4

\$7.00



# Tidewater Grille



**HAVRE DE GRACE  
MARYLAND**



*Enjoy Spectacular Views of the  
Susquehanna River and  
Chesapeake Bay While You Dine*

**Fresh Seafood & Steaks  
Daily Specials • Enjoy Lunch or Dinner**

.....  
**COZY BAR • ENCLOSED PORCH • EXPANSIVE DECK • BANQUET ROOM**

**300 Franklin Street • 410-939-3313 • 410-575-7045**

**[www.TheTidewaterGrille.com](http://www.TheTidewaterGrille.com)**



**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.



## Contents

- 9 The Baker Rig**
- 11 Why the Wood Duck?**  
By Dr. Kenneth Margolis and Dr. Howard Bond
- 14 John Franklin (Frank) "Home Run" Baker's Battery Rig**  
By James L. Trimble
- 18 Carved Memories**  
By Howard and June Bond
- 21 Museum News**
  - Waterfowl Day
  - Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's First Annual 5k Run Walk
- 23 In Memoriam**

## DEPARTMENTS

- 5 From the President      26 Calendar of Events
- 24 Museum Members

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.



## FOLK ART & TRADITION

When thinking about the folk and traditional arts, one automatically thinks of community, or traditions passed down through generations ... art that is remembered and loved, renewed by the living and dead, arts in harmony with our instinct to create ... Folk and traditional arts have the aura of authenticity about them: real art by real people who draw their inspiration, technique and aesthetics from traditions as old as the land, as old as home, as old as a family and community ... The folk arts are part of what make our homes and communities ours. They breathe life into the community dance.

—Jane Alexander  
*Chairman, National  
 Endowment for the Arts*

## ON THE COVER

This month's cover shows the view from the Decoy Museum of the sunrise over the Susquehanna Flats on October 5th, 2013. Superimposed over it are wood ducks by (clockwise from front center) Pat Vincenti, Capt. Harry Jobes, Jim Pierce, Clarence Titbird Bauer, and Capt. Bill Collins



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

BAYOU "GO" CARRY OUT — 410-939-3565

---

*Open Tuesday thru Sunday 11:30 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.*

***The place the locals always come back to!***

For over fifty years the Bayou Restaurant has been a local favorite in the "City by the Bay."

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 banquet room.

We have three banquet rooms with seating for 30-200 guests. Our staff will tailor a menu to make your banquet memorable.

**THE HAVRE DE GRACE  
DECOY MUSEUM, INC.**

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

**www.decoymuseum.com**  
canvasback@decoymuseum.com

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

Pat Vincenti, *President*  
Charles E. Packard, *Vice President*  
Ralph C. Hockman, *Treasurer*  
James W. Carroll, Jr., *Secretary*  
Allen J. Fair, *Member-at-Large*

**DIRECTORS**

Shirley Knot Alger  
Jeff Coats  
John Case  
James Dodd  
Edward L. Funk III  
John Hostetter  
John Ingoglia  
Jerry Rutkowski  
Madelyn M. Shank  
Myrtle M. Street  
William Veasey

**HONORARY DIRECTORS**

David & Joan Hagan  
Charlie Joiner  
Jim Pierce

---

## *The Canvasback*

**SPONSORS**

Publication of *The Canvasback*  
is made possible by the generosity of  
**Ed and Jane Zimmer**

**EDITOR**

James W. Carroll, Jr.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Howard Bond, MD  
Bonnie Castillo  
Rae Copper  
Mindy Elledge  
Margaret Jones  
Kenneth Margolis, MD  
C. John Sullivan, Jr.  
Jim Trimble

**DESIGN**

iDesign Graphics

**PRINTING**

Stockson Printing Company

**MAILING**

BriteStar Business Communication Experts

*The Canvasback* is a quarterly publication of The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, Inc. All rights are reserved, and no material may be reprinted without prior written permission of the Museum. All correspondence should be sent as above.

# From the President

---



*Photo by Leo Heppner*

Dear Museum Member,

As the seasons have changed from summer into fall, we have been busy at the Decoy Museum. We tried to shake things up with some new ideas to both engage our supporters and the community, as well as to find new sources of income.

Jeff Coats organized the "First Annual 5K Run" through Havre de Grace on Saturday morning, September 28th. We also accommodated walkers and even had runners with toddlers pushing special running strollers. It was lots of fun! We intend to make this fun run an annual event that provides an opportunity for us to connect with the community and give visibility to the Museum. Over 80 runners participated, and we think we can grow that number as we advertise and get word out among the running enthusiasts.

The traditional fall Duck Fair needed reinvigoration, so on Saturday, October 5th we tried a new twist and sponsored a "Waterfowl Day". The focal point of the day's events was the 2013 Maryland State Duck Calling Championship. Anyone aspiring to compete in the World's Championship in Stuttgart, Arkansas must first win a sanctioned calling contest, and we sponsored three that day. We got huge support for the event with vendors and contestants coming from twelve states. All of us thank Sean Mann Outdoors, Bass Pro Shops, Zink Calls, Avian-X, and many other supporters who made this event a great success.

We decided to postpone the anniversary cocktail buffet and auction that we have had each November. We are going to revise the event in a way that has broader appeal and try to make it both a more affordable and more effective fund-raiser. We will be in touch on that.

As always, our loyal staff, directors, and volunteers—too many to name—have stepped up to the plate and devoted time and effort to help keep both events and the Museum running smoothly. I particularly want to thank Pat Hockman, Barbara Morgan, Henry Krotee, Ginny Sanders, and Howard Bond. Caroline Milburn joined the team over the summer to sell advertising for *The Canvasback* and to promote membership. Her enthusiasm has produced terrific results for which we are very grateful. Elly Coale and Joanne Calder sponsored their 5th annual "No-Bake Bake Sale"—like a bake sale, but without the baked goods—which they pursued aggressively. As a fund-raising effort it was a new record, plus it eliminated the cooking, cleanup, and extra pounds. Thanks, Elly and Joanne!

Editor Jim Carroll has scanned and compiled for the Museum's archives electronic versions of *The Canvasback* in an Adobe PDF format back to the first issue in 1992. We will post these on the website and make copies of the archive available for purchase on a DVD.

Director Ed Funk and Todd Pauliny at RBC Wealth Management analyzed the investment of restricted gifts that the Museum has received over the years and made some changes. Each grant was made with the expectation that we would grow the gift to support the Museum's future operations. We think we have a good balance between risk and return that satisfies the Prudent Man Rule and is consistent with the expectations of our benefactors.

Mayor Dougherty and the City Council have once again thrown their support behind us for the 33rd Annual Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival on the first weekend in May. Save the date—May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th—and start making your plans now.

Each quarter when I sit down to write this letter I am very proud of what we have accomplished on a slim budget, keeping the Museum's doors open 360 days every year and providing an unforgettable experience for our visitors. We appreciate every single contribution by every single person and organization, whether it is membership, volunteer time, visitors, exhibitors, monetary and in-kind contributions, or simply a good word in someone else's ear. We are truly blessed to have so much loyal support. The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is a very special place. Thank you for your part in making it so!

Sincerely,

Pat Vincenti

## HAD YOUR FILL OF IT?



**ACCENTRA PELLET STOVE** Declare your energy independence and be part of the solution without the pollution! Discover the warmth and comfort of a Harman Pellet Stove.

- 100% Renewable Energy, Grown Here! Reduces Global Warming
- No Mess, No Creosote, No Matches!
- 10x Less Work than a Wood Stove, and Precise Temperature Control
- No Chimney Required

**HARMAN™**  
BUILT TO A STANDARD, NOT A PRICE

Save up to \$1100 on this stove until 12-31-13.

- \$300 Federal Tax Credit
- \$700 Maryland Rebate
- \$100 Online Coupon
- Sales Tax Exempt in MD

**DUVALL'S**

**Lawn & Garden**

"YOUR HOMETOWN DEALER"

**Mon-Fri 8am-5pm • Sat 8am-12pm**

653 Telegraph Rd Rising Sun, MD

**410-658-6519 duvalllawn.com**



*Serving Crabs  
Year Round!*

*The Wellwood*  
an experience for every taste

**Fine Dining Crab and Seafood Restaurant  
with a Great Water View**

The Wellwood Club offers a delicious dining experience for every taste with a casual fare menu (including nightly specials) as well as a fine dining menu to rival none. In addition, we cater private parties at The Wellwood or at your place. View our events calendar to make plans with family and friends. You can also join our VIP Club through Facebook or our website for special discounts and promotions.

For reservations please give us a call at 410-287-6666 or contact us online. To stay up to date on events and entertainment visit our Facebook page or our events page for more details.

**Wednesday • Thursday 11:30am - 9:00pm • Friday • Saturday 11:30am - 10:00pm • Sunday 10:00am - 9:00pm**

523 WATER STREET IN HISTORIC CHARLESTOWN, MD 21914  
www.wellwoodclub.com • 410.2876666

**Keep warm and cozy this  
winter with Propane.**



**CONOWINGO  
GAS**

8:30am - 5:00pm Mon.-Fri, 10:00am - 2:00pm Sat.

**Call Us Today!**

**410-378-3200**

195 Rock Springs Road, Conowingo, MD 21918

**www.conowingogasco.com**



# Thank you

partners

Special thanks to our partners who each had a vital role in getting out *The Canvasback* and other Decoy Museum messaging during 2013.

*The generosity of*  
**Ed and Jane Zimmer**

made the four 2013 quarterly issues of *The Canvasback* possible.

*Please join the Decoy Museum Board and staff in thanking them for their support.*

.....

Leo Heppner and Terri Shepke-Heppner's diligent efforts and creative photography at the Decoy Festival, the Madison Mitchell Endowment Dinner, and other special events has enriched the pages of *The Canvasback* during 2013.

## Heppner Imaging

Where Art Meets Technology

**Terri Shepke-Heppner**  
410-530-9711

[www.leoheppnerphotography.com](http://www.leoheppnerphotography.com)  
leopictureman@gmail.com

**Leo Heppner**  
443-421-1662

[www.photogadgetry.net](http://www.photogadgetry.net)

P.O. Box 239, Havre de Grace, MD 21078

When it comes to quality, value and selection, no one comes close  
**Heppner Imaging** ... has it all!



**STOCKSON  
PRINTING CO.**

INFO@STOCKSONPRINTING.COM  
36 NORTH MAIN ST.  
BEL AIR, MD 21014

410.838.6740  
410.879.6338  
FAX. 410.838.6743

## Self-publishing *doesn't mean doing it alone.*

Print. ebooks. Illustrations.

Award-winning book designs.  
What you hope working with a designer  
could be.

See for yourself.

[iDesignGraphicsonline.com](http://iDesignGraphicsonline.com)



**BriteStar**

Combining Direct  
Mail Production  
with On Demand Printing

**Business Communication Experts**

We create unique documents with customized  
messages for each customer and combine it  
with our expertise in direct mail production.



Want to know more? Please click or call: [www.britestarbusiness.com](http://www.britestarbusiness.com)  
1305-B Governor Ct. | Abingdon, MD 21009 | p. 410.679.0441 | f. 410.679.1275

**OTIS IRWIN**



**Ontario Printing Company**

PRINTING OF ALL KINDS

410-939-5896  
410-939-7887 FAX

551 FOUNTAIN ST.  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD

EMAIL: [ONTARIOPRINTING@VERIZON.NET](mailto:ONTARIOPRINTING@VERIZON.NET)

• C. JOHN SULLIVAN •  
BOX 193  
FALLSTON MD 21047  
410-790-4727

**DECOYS & STORIES**

**HOSTETTER**  
AGENCY, INC.  
206 West Bel Air Avenue  
Aberdeen, MD 21001

Hostetter Agency, Inc.  
provides dependable service  
& fair, comparably priced  
insurance coverage.

- Home • Business
- Life • Health
- Auto • Disability
- Long Term Care

For a friendly consultation  
about your insurance needs  
please call, fax or email us.

**410-272-6110**  
Fax: 410-272-3057

Email:  
insure@hostetteragency.com

[www.hostetteragency.com](http://www.hostetteragency.com)

## COMMITMENT

At RBC Wealth Management, one of our core values is service. We express this value by building meaningful relationships with the clients and communities we serve. We get involved in the community because we recognize that the strength of our business is directly related to the well-being of the communities where we live and work. This commitment is reflected in our proud sponsorship of the Canvasback.

**There's Wealth in Our Approach™**

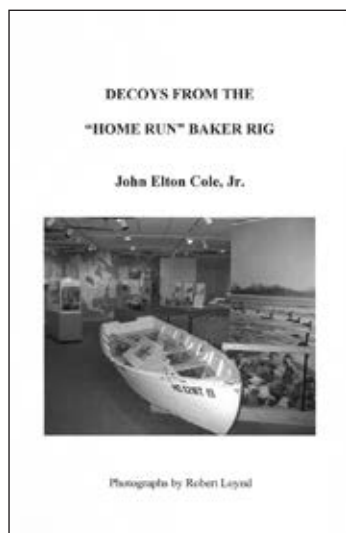
**Todd Pauliny**  
*First Vice President - Financial Advisor*  
111 Fulford Ave B • Bel Air, MD 21014  
443-402-2226 phone  
todd.pauliny@rbc.com

**RBC Wealth Management**

© 2013 RBC Wealth Management, a division of  
RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Member NYSE/FINRA/SIPC.



# the Baker rig



## John Elton Cole, Jr.

approached the Decoy Museum several years ago with two priceless gifts: an intact rig of 263 wooden decoys that had belonged to the early 20th century baseball great John Franklin “Home Run” Baker, along with a draft copy of Mr. Cole’s meticulously chronicled research that tied together this rig, its famous owner, and the Eastern Shore heritage of both.

The Baker rig was typical of the large diving duck rigs assembled for gunning use in the Chesapeake Bay area, and its decoys are mostly the work of a few renowned Havre de Grace carvers. It is now the first thing seen by every visitor to the Decoy Museum. The Baker rig clearly shows what a massive decoy rig from yesterday looked like and is the focal point of the Museum’s extensive waterfowling gallery entitled “What is a Decoy?”

Mr. Cole studied, photographed, and made extensive notes about each decoy in the Baker rig. Well-known author, historian, and longtime consultant to the Decoy Museum, C. John Sullivan, Jr. worked closely with Mr. Cole to transform his draft chronicle into a unique paperback book, *Decoys from the Home Run Baker Rig*.

The Decoy Museum is thankful and honored to have been entrusted by Mr. Cole with this very important history. It is only through the generous support of Mr. Cole and donors like him that the Decoy Museum can preserve for future generations this folk art form along with the tales that enable its interpretation

The decoys, most made in Havre de Grace by a variety of early decoy carvers, after floating Choptank River waters to deceive and attract, have returned home to where they were created.”

—Jim Trimble

and enrich the visitor experience. Mr. Cole’s book is now offered exclusively in the Decoy Museum Gift Shop.

Jim Trimble’s article (page 14) takes a close look at the life, times, and baseball career of Frank Baker and gives greater meaning to these two important Museum resources. His article first appeared in *Hunting and Fishing Collectibles Magazine*. ■

We're *Ready* for your  
next *Event.*



For details contact the Museum at  
**410-939-3739**





**Now offering  
100% custom  
designed rugs.**



*There is no limit to  
your imagination!*



*Charlie Packard's*  
**Flooring AMERICA**  
Carpet By The Yard

**Charlie Packard**

Phone: (410) 272-8440 • Fax: (410) 676-1937

9B Aberdeen Plaza  
Aberdeen, MD 21001

[cpackard@charliepackardsflooringamerica.com](mailto:cpackard@charliepackardsflooringamerica.com)  
[www.charliepackardsflooringamerica.com](http://www.charliepackardsflooringamerica.com)



**Stephen Simmons, Agent**  
[www.stephensimmons.net](http://www.stephensimmons.net)  
 Fax: 410-398-1035  
 Bus: 410-398-1000  
[stephen@stephensimmons.net](mailto:stephen@stephensimmons.net)

## Community starts with neighbors who care.

**That's what our town  
is made of.**

State Farm® has a long  
heritage of helping out in the  
community. That's why I'm  
proud to support the Decoy  
Museum.

***Get to a better State®.***



**State Farm®**

1201196

State Farm, Bloomington, IL





Left: Clarence Titbird Bauer (mini),  
Upper Right: Capt. Harry Jobes (mini),  
Middle: R. Madison Mitchell,  
Lower Right: Pat Vincenti (mini)

# Why the Wood Duck?

by Dr. Kenneth Margolis and Dr. Howard Bond

**THE** distinctive, multicolored, iridescent plumage and red eyes of the wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) make it one of the most colorful of North American waterfowl species. But this is not a story of just another pretty bird.

The world of commercial decoy carving has undergone dramatic changes since 1950. No area has felt the impact of these changes more than Havre de Grace, Maryland—the self-described Decoy Capital of the World—and the genesis of the wood duck decoy probably best exem-

plifies a response to the underlying environmental, economic, and social factors.

The commercial decoy carvers in Havre de Grace prior to 1950 sold almost 100% of their output to local hunters. These local hunters were primarily after the profusion of canvasbacks, redheads, and blackheads that feasted on the wild celery and other sub-aquatic vegetation that blanketed the twenty-some square miles of shallows off Havre de Grace, known as the Susquehanna Flats, where the Susquehanna River morphs into the

Chesapeake Bay (see *The Canvasback*, Winter 2013, “What’s in a Name?”).

The carvers responded to that demand by producing mainly decoys of those diving ducks, although black ducks, mallards, pintails, teal, baldpates, and Canada geese were made occasionally. The carvers at that time also needed to produce decoys in large numbers because hunting diving ducks required large rigs of decoys.

To be successful, the carvers had three goals with respect to their decoys: they had to be effective in attracting wildfowl,



they had to be made quickly, and they had to be made inexpensively. After the First World War many carvers began turning their decoy bodies on duplicating lathes to increase production and limit costs (see *The Canvasback*, Fall 2012, “Muskets and Mallards”).

But duck populations on the Susquehanna Flats began a precipitous decline after hurricanes in 1954 and 1955 severely damaged the wild celery beds, which have never recovered from the subsequent devastation unleashed by Hurricane Agnes in 1972. The local carvers’ traditional market for wooden decoys began a similar decline, worsened by new technology and manufacturing processes that brought low-cost plastic decoys to the market. But carvers quickly discovered a new source of customer—the collector.

Local carvers, such as R. Madison Mitchell and Paul Gibson, began to produce decoys of species they had not done before. The quality of the painting improved. By 1960, most species in the Atlantic flyway were being made. However, no commercial carver in Havre de Grace was making decoys of the wood duck.

That changed in the early 1960’s. Harry Jobes, while working in Mr. Mitchell’s shop, made a standing wood duck for a lamp. Mr. Mitchell liked it so much that he and Harry, working together, made twelve pairs of Havre de Grace hunting-style wood duck decoys using the pattern for the body of Mr. Mitchell’s blackhead. These wood duck decoys were never intended to be hunted over. They were meant strictly for decoy collectors.

There was much extra work involved in the intricate painting and much extra time required waiting for the successive layers and colors of oil paint to dry. Accordingly, Mr. Mitchell sold these wood ducks for \$50 a pair – a significant premium at a time when he was charging \$7 a pair for most other species. Mr. Mitchell did not make another wood duck decoy until 1974, at which time he made 54 pairs.

Harry Jobes continued to make wood duck decoys in his own shop, producing a series every six to twelve months. On one occasion, Harry made a rig of wood ducks for a customer who wanted to hunt over them. But the majority of his output of wood ducks went to collectors, and he always charged a premium for them.

Jim Pierce, like many other local carvers, also learned to make decoys in Mr. Mitchell’s shop. After setting up his own shop, Jim made a series of wood duck decoys every five to ten years. His son Charlie subsequently joined him as a carver, and working together they now make them much more frequently.

Clarence “Tit Bird” Bauer worked in Mr. Mitchell’s shop for over thirty years. In a shed behind his own home, Tit Bird made thousands of two- to three-inch miniature decoys and a few full-sized. As the bulk of his output went to the collectors, he always had miniature wood duck decoys available. He only made the full-sized wood ducks about once a year, and the painting on them varied from primitive to truly outstanding with great details and fine coloration.

Capt. Bill Collins and Decoy Museum president Pat Vincenti are also prominent decoy makers who apprenticed in Mr. Mitchell’s shop. In fact, Bill bought Mr. Mitchell’s shop in 1979 and later relocated to Queen Anne’s County on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Pat has a retail store in Havre de Grace in addition to his shop in nearby Churchville. They each make a very similar and well-painted wood duck in the Havre de Grace style. Both always have wood duck decoys available for collectors or home decorators.

Almost all of the carvers now make wood duck decoys, despite the fact that it is the most difficult and time-consuming bird for them to paint. The carvers know there is a steady demand for their best work, and they like to have the wood ducks on their tables at shows to flaunt their painting skill at the highest level and thereby attract new customers. Despite the

fact that wood ducks command a hefty premium—commonly three to four times the cost of other species—collectors are willing to pay the extra cost to own these beautiful decoys.

Interestingly, in recent decades the carvers recognized that women were a growing source of demand for decoys, primarily as buyers for their significant others and as collectors in their own right. Women wanted a more elegant and refined appearance to the decoys, and carvers obliged. Whether for gunning or collecting, decoy carving has always been a business, and the successful carvers are the ones who understood their market and kept evolving with it.

Contemporary commercial decoy carvers in Havre de Grace continue to make almost all species found in the Atlantic flyway, as well as a few others, but they now sell less than 15% of their output to hunters as gunning decoys.

Over the last sixty years, the successful commercial decoy carvers in Havre de Grace have gone from making what was strictly a utilitarian hunting resource for attracting ducks and geese to making what is primarily a decorative product that will never see a pond or bay. Make no mistake, most decorative decoys could be just as effective as their utilitarian predecessors for hunting, but these striking works will be placed on hearths or shelves to be admired and treasured for their artistic importance.

This is the essence of folk art, and the decoy carver has evolved into a contemporary folk artist. The wood duck decoy was a notable response in this evolutionary process as Havre de Grace carvers adapted to the changing reality around them, and it became a means for them to develop and demonstrate their artistic skill.

And that is why the contemporary carvers make wood duck decoys. It is not just another pretty duck. ■

---

EDITOR’S NOTE: Anyone starting out with a decoy collection—or wondering how to start—will enjoy Dr. Margolis’ informative and richly illustrated book, *Collecting Decoys on a Shoestring*, which is available from him ([kmargolis@decoymuseum.com](mailto:kmargolis@decoymuseum.com)) or the Decoy Museum Gift Shop. Dr. Margolis reports that he acquired almost every one of his decoys directly from the carver, and his basic advice is to buy only what you can afford and would like to see on your shelf. It is a hobby for your enjoyment!



**PREMIER AUTO & TIRE**  
KEEPING AMERICA ROLLING

410.398.5095

FOREIGN

• Premier Customer Service • 2 Year Warranty on All Repairs  
• Service You Can Trust! • 3 Convenient Locations

Let Premier Auto And Tire Give You The Service You Deserve and a 2 Year 24,000 Mile Warranty On All Repairs.

**\$20 OFF**  
ANY SERVICE  
FOR DECOY MUSUEM MEMBERS

**410-398-7749**  
127 W. Main Street, Elkton, MD 21921  
www.premierautoandtire.com

**410-398-5095**  
220 E. Pulaski Hwy., Elkton, MD 21921  
email: WeFixit1@verizon.net

**302-737-7998**  
233 East Main Street, Newark, DE 19711  
www.premierautoandtire.com



**WHAT'S YOUR STORY?**  
PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

**JOANN M. MACDONALD**  
WRITER

PO BOX 158  
JOPPA, MD 21085

410-459-5467

JOANNMACD@COMCAST.NET



**TRANSCENDENT**

**NEW NAME!**  
**Grand Re-Opening**

1197 E. Pulaski Hwy  
Suite A  
Elkton, MD 21921

**MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY**

443.207.8371 PHONE tmaatkd@gmail.com

**Rory G. White**  
Financial Advisor

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

218 S. Union Avenue  
P.O. Box 338  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
Bus. 410-939-5270 Fax 410-939-5271  
TF. 800-755-4537  
rory.white@edwardjones.com  
www.edwardjones.com

**Lyons Pharmacy**  
*Prescription Medicines*

*Gifts • Candles • Sovernirs • Home Decor*

**410-939-4545**  
328 St. John Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
www.lyonspharmacy.com





# JOHN FRANKLIN (FRANK) “HOME RUN” BAKER’s BATTERY RIG

## Eastern Shore Farmer, Waterfowl Hunter & Baseball Legend

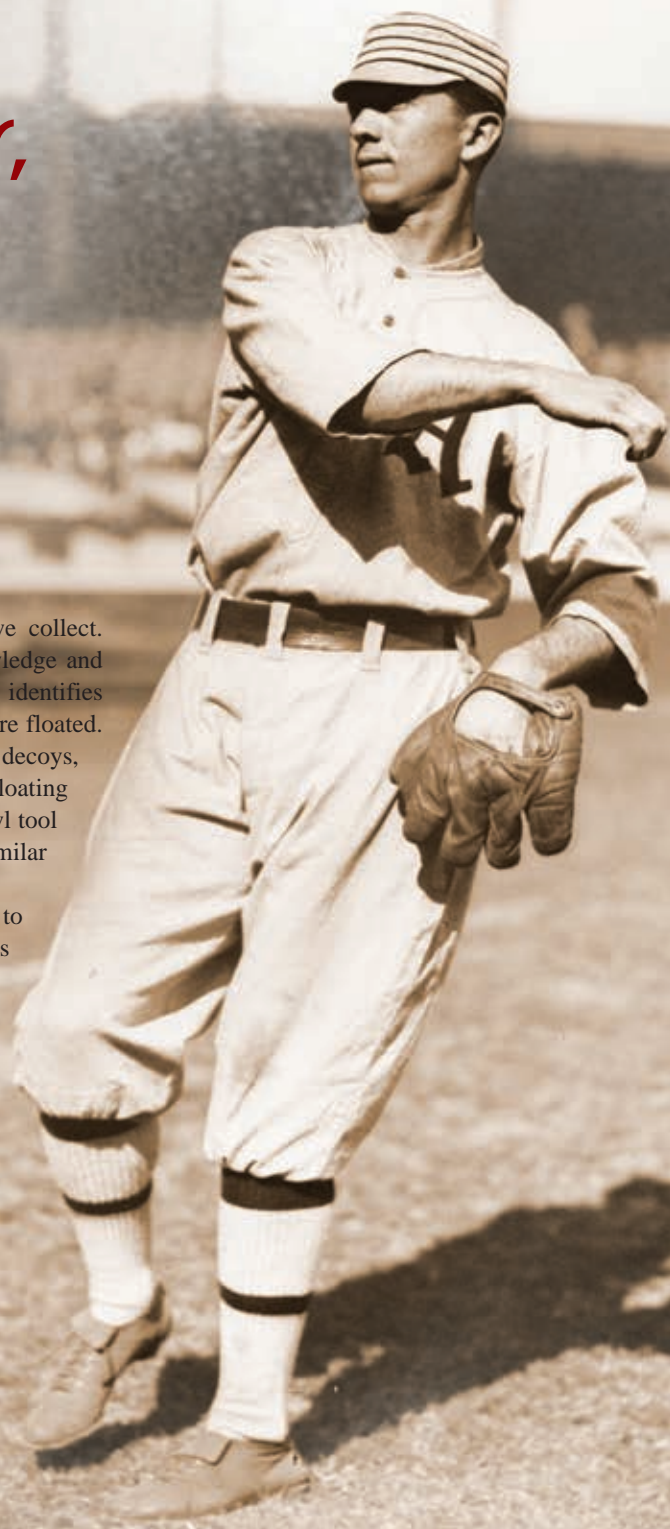
By James L. Trimble

**P**rovenance is an important part of the wooden birds that we collect. Besides maker and condition, prior ownership is added knowledge and value. For example, a branded bird from yesterday not only identifies early owner(s), it also tells its point in time and of waters where floated. Prior ownership history is often lost, especially on unbranded decoys, as collected birds change hands. We tend to look at these early painted wooden floating sculptures on an individual basis. We lose sight of the fact that this was a waterfowl tool that once was tethered and floated with a rig of 50 to 100; possibly 300-500 other similar decoys.


One such rig comprised of 263 unbranded decoys, primarily diving ducks, came to market November 10, 2004. The rig, comprised primarily of canvasbacks, redheads and bluebills, had floated Talbot County’s portion of the Choptank River and had belonged to life-long hunter and baseball legend Frank “Home Run” Baker of Trappe Maryland. The Guyette & Schmidt (G&S) auction catalog listing filled two pages; one page with six color photos to support, described the battery gunning rig. The other page capsulized Baker’s baseball career showing a photo of

Frank Baker is a dangerous man  
at all times, and I don’t care what  
they pitch him.

—New York Yankees Manager, Hal Chase







Baker in an early pinstriped baseball uniform. Another photo showed his Cooperstown Hall of Fame baseball plaque. Rig decoy makers identified were Sam Barnes, Madison Mitchell, James Holly, Jim Currier "and others" with notation as to the number of hi-head decoys. Besides photos of rows and rows of decoys, one photo showed a peach basket full of early long-necked replacement heads. The item listing also included a September 5, 1925 paid receipt addressed to J. Frank Baker from S.T. Barnes, Boat Builder & Decoy Maker of Havre de Grace, Maryland. It was for 40 new decoys @ \$1.25 each plus box & handling charges of \$1.00. The last noted G&S item description was "PROVENANCE: ~ Rig of Frank "Homerun" Baker, Trappe, Maryland, 1886-1963" ~

The Baker rig was larger than the 263 items that came to auction. Local Eastern Shore collectors were aware of the large Baker rig still held by family members... and were buying decoys from family members after the senior Baker's death.

Four years before Baker was born, a June 3rd, 1881 Baltimore Herald newspaper describes Talbot County's Trappe as a picturesque and prosperous Eastern Shore town of nearly 400 that had "shelled" streets. It was a farming community situated on a neck of land made by a bend in the Choptank River. Besides farming and a thumbnail of town merchants, the article also commented on an extensive steam powered saw mill that added to the economy.

John Franklin Baker, the second of two sons, was born March 13, 1886, on a farm located just outside of Trappe. The boys were raised on farm chores and learned to hunt at their dad's side. Baker often told that one of the family farms faced the Choptank and that this is where he learned to shoot canvasbacks and redheads by the time he was 12. His brother Norman remained in the community, worked the Baker farms, and was a lifelong hunting companion of his younger brother.

An October 1913 article in Easton's Star Democrat newspaper entitled "Baker's Boyhood" tells of boyhood baseball games as well as "going with other boys swimming (off the old Trappe wharf into the steamboat channel), fishing, gunning and ducking." The article continued: "He (Baker) was especially good with a gun and his father depended on him to keep the cornfield free of crows, and he did."

With athletic ability, a good eye and a keen interest in baseball, he played outfield and pitched for his high school team. Baker moved on to an amateur team where

he caught the attention of a semi-pro team manager in a nearby community. In 1905, he signed a contract to play at \$5.00 per week and was promptly moved to third base. It was a position that he would play for his entire baseball career. Paydays increased as he moved up in minor league ball. Connie Mack of the American League's Philadelphia Athletics purchased his contract with Baker landing the starting third base job at the outset of the 1909 season. This left handed batter who threw right, finished his rookie season with a .305 batting average that included four (dead-ball) homers, 19 triples and 85 RBI's. The six-foot, 175 pound Eastern Shore farm boy with powerful arms that swung a 52 oz bat (20 oz heavier than today's bats), without choke, had arrived.

Baker and his bat helped the Athletics win the 1910, 1911, 1913 and 1914 American League title; also winning the World Series in 1910, 1911 and 1913. Baker was the hero of the 1911 World Series, hitting two homeruns to clinch the title, thus earning the moniker "Home Run" Baker. While with the Athletics, he led the league for four years in homeruns and for two years in RBI's. Year after year, he was always in the top ten for these two categories as well as for batting average, on base percentage, times on base, runs scored, hits, doubles, total bases, and extra base hits. His "hot corner" defensive field play was also highly regarded. He always finished as a top ten in the American League's "Most Valuable Player" voting.

Baseball & Duck Hunting: The Society for American Baseball Research's website comments on Baker and the press that tried to follow him during the off-season. "Despite his newfound fame, Baker remained a rugged individualist, retiring to his Maryland farm every off-season where he kept in shape by chopping wood and hunting for quail. Sportswriters who managed to track him down for a hot stove feature soon learned that the quickest way to get Frank to open up was to go hunting with him. "Frank is the best shot in Talbot County, and he's wild about duck shooting," one friend explained. "Whenever you look at him he's either just shot fifteen or twenty ducks or is just going to."

As the result of a contract dispute, Baker was traded to the New York Yankees in 1916 where he finished out his career. During the winter of 1919, scarlet fever struck the Baker household taking his wife, but sparing his children. During this same period, his team acquired "Babe" Ruth from the Boston Red Sox. He was a player who swung a big bat. Ruth's arrival somewhat coincided with the arrival of the "rabbit ball" that substantially changed the

CONTINUES ON PAGE 16

CONTINUED FROM 15

game. There were more hits, longer hits and higher scores. As the game changed, Baker took on the role of part-time player, leaving the team after 66 games of the 1922 season. He soon married Margaret Mitchell of Baltimore and returned to his Talbot County farms. Mitchell was the older 1st cousin of the young R. Madison Mitchell of Havre de Grace, Maryland who, with the help of a lathe, eventually became the dominant decoy maker of the Chesapeake Bay region.

In 1924, Baker became player-manager of the nearby Easton Farmers baseball team that played in the class D Eastern Shore League. He was sacked mid-way through the 1925 season, in part due to the “paltry” price received for delivering “newly discovered” Eastern Shore slugger Jimmie Foxx to the Philadelphia Athletics. Foxx was also a duck hunter, who over the years, visited and hunted with Baker in their mutual pursuit to kill ducks.

To accommodate guests, Baker maintained a large wooden out-building, at first one and then two connected by a walkway, with two bunk rooms, a dining area, storage areas and a two-seater out-house. These buildings were on the backend of his farm, with a wharf that extended into Reed Creek, just off the Choptank. The buildings were without electricity. Water was hand-pumped from a well. He referred to these buildings as “the shack.” His surviving hi-head diving duck decoys indicate that Baker shot from a sinkbox. Grandson John Baker was too young to know about the use of the box, but he does remember its destruction/abandonment in the early 1950s. He further comments that remnants of the box still remain on one of the old Baker properties.

Farmer Baker became a pillar in his Trappe community. Besides being a church deacon and a director of the local

farmers lending cooperative, he served on the Trappe Town Board as well as served on the local bank board. He collected taxes for his community, supported little league baseball and served with the local volunteer fire department. He was also a dead-ball era baseball player that had to wait 33-years before his 1955 election into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

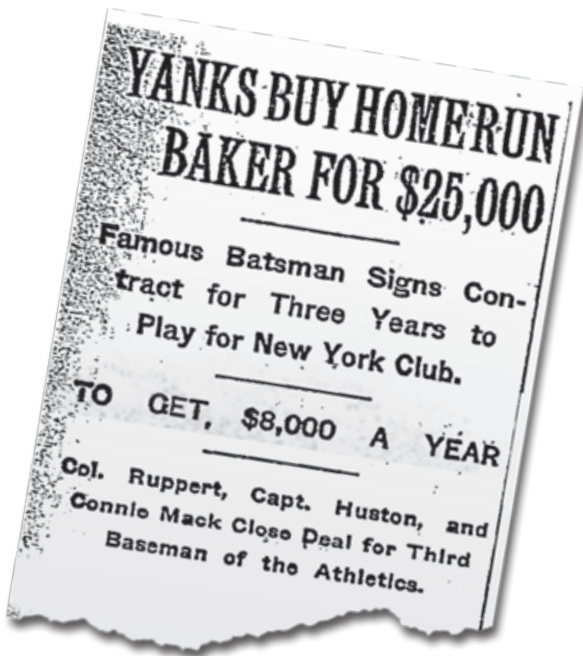
In 1940, after a visit to Trappe, a columnist for the Baltimore Sun newspaper wrote, “Home Run Baker is as fine a citizen as any town could have. You can see something in the way the eyes of the people here twinkle when they talk about him that indicates a deep respect as well as a wholesome admiration for this special citizen of their community.”

A. Aubrey Bodine, the award winning photographer/pictorialist for the Baltimore Sun Newspaper and their Sunday Sun supplement insert, photographed Baker in 1944, hunting along the water’s edge, with the following caption: “Home Run” Baker winging a cripple duck in front of his home in Trappe, MD. John Franklin “Home Run” Baker of Trappe, MD, the original home run king is now a successful farmer owning over three hundred acres in Talbot County. He is also an expert shot and is still hale and hearty in his 58th year. The old-time king of long ball hitters, a successful Talbot county farmer since his retirement from the diamond, enjoys ducking and is about as handy with a shot gun as he used to be with a bat.”



Baker became player-manager of the nearby Easton Farmers baseball team that played in the class D Eastern Shore League.





Baseball or “trade” cards from yesterday, with a variety of Baker’s images, was a marketing vehicle that included Hassan Cork Tip Cigarettes, Turkey Red Regular Cigarettes, Sweet Caporal Cigarettes, Cracker Jacks, Fleer Gum, Superman Card Gum, Fenway Breweries and Boston Garters (to hold up your socks) among others. As these early trade cards were later reprinted, autograph seekers began finding their way to his Trappe home. He was also a popular figure at Major League “Old Timer” games.

Maryland outdoorsman and retired baseball great Bill Werber, now deceased, served as master of ceremonies at a 1955 Talbot County testimonial dinner to honor Baker upon his election to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Werber, an avid duck hunter, shares insight to duck hunter Baker, 21-years his senior, as numerous of their duck hunting trips are memorialized in Werber’s book “Hunting is for the Birds.”

Werber comments about the fine winter canvasback and redhead shooting along the Choptank. He further explains that with the increases of corn acreage along the river, it had also become marvelous goose-shooting territory. He reports that on one of their early hunts, they were shooting from a two man shore blind where Holmes Creek met the Choptank. Baker was able to wade in hip boots to set his decoys. Werber further comments that in all the years that he hunted with Baker, he never once saw him wear protective gloves, regardless of weather, to set or retrieve decoys. With the first passing of the ducks, Baker pumped his Remington three times.....ba-room, ba-room, ba-room, and three ducks fell from the sky reported Werber. Werber comments again that Baker was an excellent wing shot and in the eight years that he hunted with Baker, he never saw him miss a legitimate shot.

Frank’s sister-in-law, who sometimes “picked” their waterfowl, reported an earlier incident. “Baker was shooting from a water blind in front of his brother’s house and was alone at the time. A good sized flight of canvasbacks cut over his decoys. After he had let most of them go by, he began to work them from the rear forward.

CONTINUES ON 20

## ‘HOME RUN’ BAKER QUITS BASEBALL

Connie Mack Announces Retirement of Famous Slugger and Third Baseman.

Special to The New York Times.

PHILADELPHIA, Penn., Feb. 16.—“Home Run” Baker is out of baseball and the Athletics have lost their great home run batter. This was announced by Connie Mack of the Athletics at the annual dinner of the Philadelphia sporting writers in the Hotel Majestic here tonight.

“I can’t say I’ve had as good a time this year as I have in years gone by at this banquet, for I’ve had news on my mind,” Mack said. “Frank Baker wrote me tonight that he would not play with the Athletics the coming year. I got the letter just as I sat down to this banquet table.

“Frank has decided to quit the game for good. No he’s not going with the Federals now nor with any other team. He’s just sick of traveling and he wants to settle down for good on his Maryland farm. His wife has been at him for years to quit and it has been a tussle to make him sign each season. I’ve had to go down to that farm and plead with him. The last time I went down I said, ‘Frank, I can’t keep on coming down here; sign up for three years’ and he did. That was last year and he wants to quit.

Frank has decided to quit the game for good... He’s just sick and tired of traveling and he wants to settle down for good on his Maryland farm.”

—Connie Mack. Feb. 17, 1915



# CARVED MEMORIES

BY HOWARD AND  
JUNE BOND

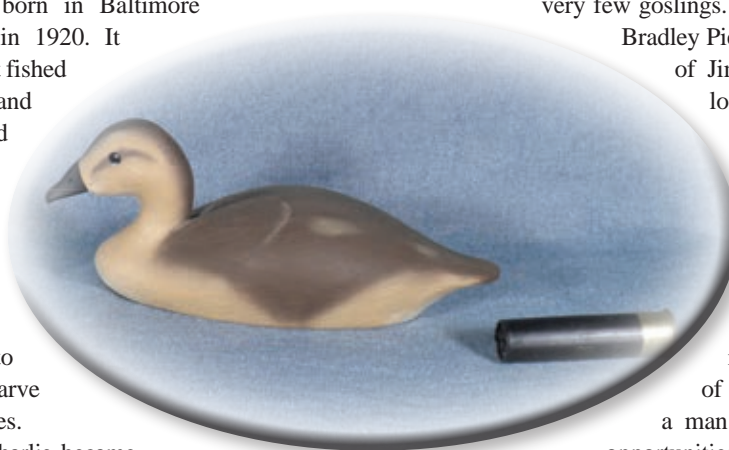
In the early twentieth century, the importance of hunting and fishing was well-established in rural communities and families. This set up a cultural background upon which today's outdoor sports have evolved and planted the seeds for many of today's fond memories.

Charlie Bryan was born in Baltimore County, Maryland in 1920. It was here that he first fished the county streams and the Chesapeake Bay and hunted upland game in the fields with his family and friends. After Charlie served in World War II, he became an avid waterfowler and body booter on the Susquehanna Flats. To support his hobby and add income to the family, Charlie began to carve decoys and make bird silhouettes.

Over the next fifty years, Charlie became a skilled and well-known carver in the Havre de Grace tradition. He made many species of waterfowl, and his birds were both tools for hunters and folk art for collectors. All who purchased his work bought the opportunity to capture memories with these carvings. For the hunter, the memories are of early mornings in a quiet field with friends. For the collector, it is in the pursuit of game for his shelves.

For some individuals, the memories of Charlie are more personal. Special friends received the gift of carved goslings to commemorate the birth of children and grandchildren. The goose family mates for life and an offspring may stay with the family grouping for 25 years if nature allows. Therefore, this gift was a symbol of hope and unity. Over his lifetime, Charlie carved hundreds of working decoys and thousands of silhouettes, but he carved

very few goslings. This gosling at left was a gift to Bradley Pierce, son of Charlie and grandson of Jim. Only two others seem to be locally accounted for.



## Why carved memories?

Although a collector may seek to have the largest, most unique, or oldest collection of Charlie Bryan decoys, the real joy is to have a collection of memories of Charlie Bryan as a man. Family and friends had many opportunities to hunt or fish with Charlie, to

help in the shop, or to give him feedback on improving his work. Dozens of close friends, hunters, fishermen, fellow carvers, collectors, neighbors, and coworkers share these memories.

When one left the Bryan shop at his home, you never left empty handed. Even if you did not have a decoy, you might be gifted with fresh fish from the bay, vegetables from his garden, or even an apple corer from the kitchen. You were guaranteed to have your hands full of treasures and your heart carved with memories.

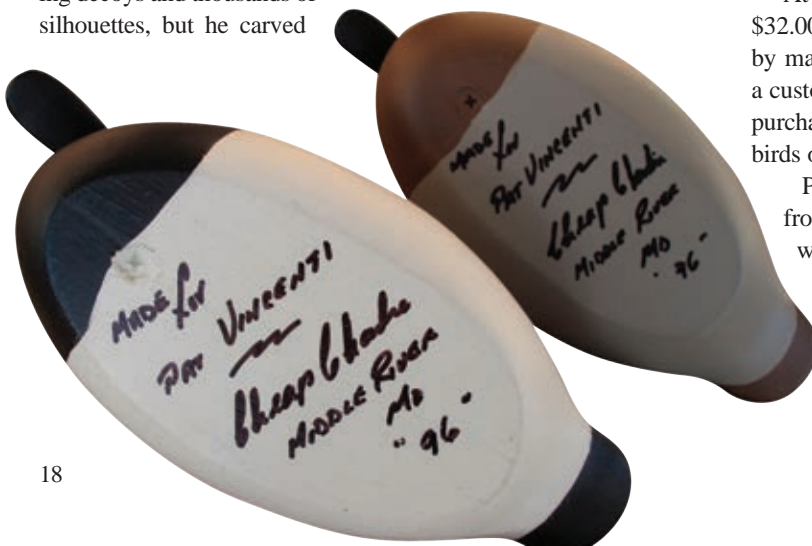
## One such carved memory was when Pricey Pat met Cheap Charlie.

"Bryan residence" was the response a young Pat Vincenti heard when he called Charlie Bryan for the first time in the mid-1970s.

At that time, Pat was a young decoy carver. He was charging \$32.00 for a pair of decoys – the standard price for a pair carved by many Havre de Grace carvers. That day Pat had been visiting a customer who cancelled his next order from Pat stating he could purchase decoys elsewhere for \$20.00 a pair. Pat recognized the birds on the customer's shelf as Charlie's work.

Pat informed the customer that he should order more decoys from Charlie immediately, because when Pat returned home he was going to call Charlie to increase the price of his decoys.

In response to Charlie's "Bryan residence" greeting, Pat asked to speak to Cheap Charlie. Charlie responded, "I have been called many things, but never cheap".



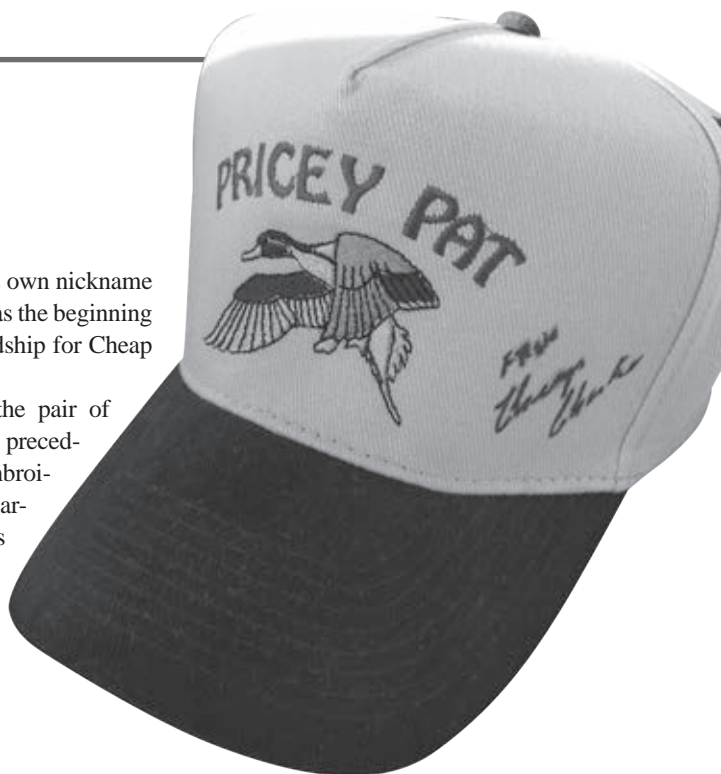
"You do not know me but, I am Pat Vincenti."

"I know who you are – one of the young carvers in the Mitchell shop," responded Charlie. Pat explained it would be better for everyone if Charlie increased his price to the standard \$32.00.

Charlie humbly responded that he was only trying to support his hobbies and as his decoys were not as good as the ones from Havre de Grace so, it was only right to charge less. He also wanted to ensure that all of his customers could afford his work.

Charlie countered with his own nickname for Pat, and that phone call was the beginning of a long and treasured friendship for Cheap Charlie and Pricey Pat.

Pat's memories include the pair of half-size canvasbacks on the preceding page and the cleverly embroidered hat at right that particularly delighted Charlie with his own cleverness, all signed by "Cheap Charlie." ■



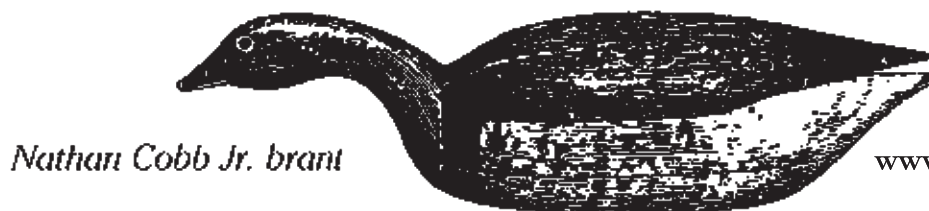
We would like to thank the following for their contribution to this article: Charles Bryan Jr, John Simon, Andy Zielinski, Ken Stevenson, Pat Vincenti, and the Pierce Family. Also Jackie Lamar, as it was her unpublished work that inspired the title of this article. This is adapted from Howard's upcoming book, "Carved Memories," which will be a collection of memories, vignettes, and anecdotes about Charlie. He encourages you to share your own recollections of Charlie for inclusion in the collection. Email: [hbond@decoymuseum.com](mailto:hbond@decoymuseum.com)

# DECOY MAGAZINE

- ✦ Carver profiles
- ✦ Features on carving regions, fish decoys, sporting art
- ✦ Complete auction coverage
- ✦ Classified section for buying, selling, trading
- ✦ National calendar of all decoy shows
- ✦ Photographs of over eighty decoys, many in full color

- ☐ ONE YEAR, SEVEN ISSUES ..... \$40.00
- ☐ TWO YEARS, FOURTEEN ISSUES ..... \$72.00
- ☐ CANADA, ONE YEAR (U.S. FUNDS) ..... \$55.00
- ☐ CANADA, TWO YEARS (U.S. FUNDS) ..... \$100.00
- ☐ FOREIGN SUBSCRIBERS, PER YEAR (AIRMAIL) ..... \$75.00
- ☐ SAMPLE ..... \$9.95

Send check or money order payable to:  
DECOY MAGAZINE  
P.O. Box 787, Lewes, Delaware 19958 • 302-644-9001  
VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED



*Nathan Cobb Jr. brant*

[decoymag@aol.com](mailto:decoymag@aol.com)  
[www.DecoyMag.com](http://www.DecoyMag.com)

Five times he pumped his Remington. His fifth duck was dead before the first duck smacked into the water. His sister-in-law had witnessed the performance purely by chance." When he came in for hot soup, he was surprised to hear what his sister-in-law had just witnessed and conveyed.

When queried about his preference for letting flights of canvasbacks and redheads cut by his decoys, and then take them from the tail end forward, his reasoning was sound. "'Shoot into the lead bull drake" he argued, and you get but one crack at them. The ducks all see that first one fall and they flare out of there. Take them from the rear forward and they are not as apt to be frightened. Sometimes they will circle and give you a second or even third chance."

Werber's book even gives insight as to the decoys. In high winds and rain, they were shooting from a water blind in a cove off of Chancellor's Point Farm. Werber tells "From the 10 large peach baskets carried to the water's edge, we placed 10 strings of decoys into the boat, 10 ducks to each string, equally divided between redheads and canvasbacks. On each end of the string were lead weights sufficient to hold the decoys in line, regardless of the wind. Each duck was ingeniously tied into its place to the long string to avoid fouling, and the strings were played out of the boat drifting with the wind. When the decoys were placed to Frank's complete satisfaction, the stool was dressed out with a few singly anchored black ducks and goose decoys, always ahead of and into the wind from the main set of decoys."

Werber's Choptank River book chapters affectionately tell a story of friendship through duck, goose and upland game hunting that the two shared. They were kindred spirits! One can only imagine the downtime baseball stories .....maybe about the New York Yankees where they

both played.....and about crass but talented "Babe" Ruth, who was also a duck hunter.....and who overlapped Baker on the tail end of his career, and Weber on the front end of his. When Baker died in 1963, Werber was asked to serve as a pallbearer.

Guyette & Schmidt lot #315, The "Home Run" Baker rig with two pages if item description and photos, hammered at \$22,500 or \$85.55 per bird to a collector who was virtually unknown to the East Coast/Chesapeake Bay decoy collecting community. There were many hands around to help with the loading of his pick-up truck with offers to pick and purchase being declined. The purchaser was later identified as John Elton Cole, jr., a novice collector from Wilmington, DE. The uniqueness of a large Chesapeake

Bay area gunning rig from yesterday along with original owner provenance was not lost on Mr. Cole as he kept the rig intact, donating it two years later to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.

Retired game warden Burt Wheedleton, also of Talbot County, befriended Baker's son Franklin (now deceased), a farmer and hunter 20-years his senior. Besides morning coffee, they hunted together for many years. Wheedleton advises that per son Franklin, his dad's decoy rig was purchased directly from Madison Mitchell Sr., the father of decoy maker Madison Mitchell, and the uncle of Baker's wife. He also advised that it was the senior Mitchell who put his dad in touch with Sam Barnes for replenishment.

Visitors now entering the Decoy Museum are greeted by Baker's historic gunning rig, many displayed in an old wooden boat similar to a boat that would have transported them at their point in time. Hopefully, the community-minded duck hunter Frank "Home Run" Baker smiles as he looks down on his rig, now dry docked. They are at rest in a place where

his wife Margaret E. Mitchell, with deep roots to the Havre de Grace community, and niece of the original rig owner, facilitated, in all probability, their initial purchase. The decoys, most made in Havre de Grace by a variety of early decoy carvers, after floating Choptank River waters to deceive and attract, have returned home to where they were created. ■

"Shoot into the lead bull drake  
and you get but one crack at them.  
Take them from the rear  
forward and they are not as  
apt to be frightened."

### Home Run Baker Dies at 77; Slugger in Era of the Dead Ball

3d Baseman in the Athletics'  
\$100,000 Infield — Later  
Sold to the Yankees

TRAPPE, Md., June 28 (AP) — Home Run Baker, a baseball slugger of the "dead-ball" era, died today in his home at the age of 77. He suffered his second stroke in two years this month.

The former Maryland farm boy, who played third base for the Philadelphia Athletics and New York Yankees, was named to Baseball's Hall of Fame in 1965.

After his major-league days ended in 1922 he returned to Trappe to become a farmer.

Mr. Baker's first wife died in 1920, and in 1922 he married Margaret E. Mitchell. There were two children from each marriage. Survivors include his widow and the children, Mrs. Fred Hooper of Cambridge, Mrs. James Wimer of Adelphi and Mrs. Fred Wesson and J. Franklin Baker Jr. of Trappe.



Associated Press  
Home Run Baker at the Old Timers game here in 1956.

#### An Auspicious Start

On April 24, 1908, John Franklin Baker started his first game in his first full season with the Athletics. Coming to bat in the first inning with the bases loaded, he hit a home run.

In the era of the dead ball and the wagon-tongue bat it was a feat that, according to an account published several years later, "was the talk of the circuit for several days."

Baker used a 52-ounce bat, 20 ounces heavier than those used today. He was a left-handed batter and a right-handed thrower.

Baker was born in Trappe, where his ancestors had lived and farmed since before the American Revolution. He played in local leagues, failed a try-out with the Baltimore Orioles, and in 1908 signed with Reading, Pa., in the old Tri-State

A special thanks to Burt Wheedleton, Jim Pierce, John Mitchell, Madelyn Shank, John Baker, John Sullivan, Margaret Jones, and Guyette, Schmidt & Deeter for their assistance. Jim Trimble specializes in Chesapeake Bay and Chincoteague area decoys. He can be contacted at (703) 768-7264 or potomacduck@cox.net

This article was reprinted with the permission of *Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine*, P.O. Box 40, Lawsonville, NC 27022.





## Waterfowl Day

*On Saturday, October 5th, the Decoy Museum hosted its first Waterfowl Day. The day itself was bright and unseasonably warm. As you can see from the cover shot, we could not have hoped for a more perfect autumn day.*

The centerpiece of the day's events was the 2013 Maryland State Duck Calling Championship, which we set up under a big tent on the lawn overlooking the Susquehanna Flats near the old Bayou Hotel. Anyone aspiring to compete in the World's Championship in Stuttgart, Arkansas must win a sanctioned state or regional duck calling contest, and we were delighted to sponsor this important event.

The property behind the Museum was set up for parking and vendors. Waterfowl Day attracted vendors and contestants from 12 states, far and wide—Massachusetts to Ohio to Louisiana to Georgia—and everywhere in between.

We are grateful to all of our generous supporters, not the least of which were the Decoy Museum's patient neighbors who endured a full day of duck and geese calls. We thank Sean Mann Outdoors, Zink Calls, Jimmy Wren, Bob "Chappy" Chaplin, Avian-X, Bass Pro Shops, Norb Wagner, Chesapeake Rentals, and Autumn Sky Outfitters. Also a special shout-out to Bernie and Bryon Bodt, Lynch Mob Calls, Jeff Coats of Pitboss Waterfowl, Rob Glassman for the food, and Jeff Foster for the inevitable cleanup. It took many supporters to make this event a great success, and we thank everyone for everything they did.



We were so pleased with the "First Annual Waterfowl Day" at the Museum that we intend to build on this success next year as an alternative to the Duck Fair of previous years. ■

## Winners

### **Susquehanna Flats Open Regional Duck Calling Championship (sanctioned)**

- 1st Blake Hodge
- 2nd Joseph Gentry
- 3rd Teddy Hoover

### **Chesapeake Bay Open Regional Duck Calling Championship (sanctioned)**

- 1st Roland Cortez
- 2nd Joseph Gentry
- 3rd Chad Scarborough

### **Maryland State Duck Calling Championship (sanctioned)**

- 1st Bobby Spivey
- 2nd Nick Pippin

### **Chesapeake Bay Open Goose Calling Championship**

- 1st Lee Williams
- 2nd John Walls
- 3rd John Taylor
- 4th Teddy Hoover
- 5th Justin Culver

### **Chesapeake Bay Open Meat Duck Championship**

- 1st Trevor Shannahan
- 2nd Blake Hodge

- 3rd Lawrence Mauck IV
- 4th Chad Scarborough

### **Maryland State Goose Calling Championship**

- 1st Teddy Hoover
- 2nd Justin Culver
- 3rd John Taylor
- 4th Rodney Bambarly
- 5th Kevin McCarty

### **Bass Pro Shops RedHead Junior Maryland State Duck Calling Championship**

- 1st Kaleigh Meintzer
- 2nd Dylan Wilt

- 3rd Kevin McCarty
- 4th Dutch Nickerson
- 5th Micah Nickerson

### **Bass Pro Shops RedHead Junior Maryland State Goose Calling Championship**

- 1st Johnny Marshall
- 2nd Kevin McCarty
- 3rd Luke Hatton
- 4th Dylan Wilt
- 5th Finley Jones IV
- 4th Micah Nickerson
- 5th Dutch Nickerson



## Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's First Annual 5K Run Walk

*On Saturday, September 28th, we hosted a 5K run/walk through the streets of historic Havre de Grace. All together there were over 80 entrants, which we thought was a very positive showing for the first time we have done something like this.*



*Photo by Kellie Boehm*

**Runners at the starting line awaiting the signal to start the race.**



The start time was 8:00 am at Tydings Park. We had runners and walkers and people with children in strollers—great fun for all ages.

Just like Waterfowl Day, we have dubbed this event the “First Annual 5K Run Walk” and will work with the City to make this an annual Decoy Museum fall event. ■

**For all your catering needs.**



**Wedding Receptions • Private Parties**

**All You Can Eat Crabs • Crabs for Take Out**



**443-485-6007 • [mickscrabhouse.net](http://mickscrabhouse.net)**

902 E. PULASKI HWY ELKTON, MD 21921



— In Memoriam —

ALL OF US AT THE DECOY MUSEUM WERE SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE DEATHS OF THREE DECOY LOVERS AND GREAT SUPPORTERS OF THE MUSEUM. TO THEIR FAMILIES, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE SHARE YOUR LOSS AND YOUR SORROW.

ADVOLASSE SED NUNC AD ASTRA.



### Jay Freeman Wright

Longtime Decoy Museum supporter Jay Freeman Wright of Aberdeen, MD died peacefully on Sunday, August 11, 2013 in the company of his children.

Raised on Cranberry Hall Farm near Aberdeen, he graduated from Aberdeen High School, attended West Nottingham and Eaton & Burnett, and developed Wright's Mobile Home Village in 1952. In addition to being a former member of the Board of Directors of the Decoy Museum, Freeman was a lifelong member of Grace United Methodist Church and was the oldest member of the AF&AM Masonic Lodge #187 in Aberdeen where he served for 64 years and was Worshipful Master in 1973.

Freeman enjoyed hunting and was an excellent shot. He also nurtured a small flock of Canada geese, as his father had done. At the Museum, we remember him fondly for his carving. First, he was an award-winning carver of waterfowl. But his creativity also extended to the wonderful and whimsical carvings of pumpkins he made to decorate the Museum for Halloween. We will never forget and will sorely miss our "Great Pumpkin".

### Michael Dean Smith

Michael Dean Smith of Havre de Grace, MD, passed away at home after a long battle with cancer on Friday, October 11, 2013 at the age of 64.

Michael was an avid decoy collector and enjoyed travel to the Southwest. He was born in York, Pennsylvania and received his Master of Science Degree from Florida Institute of Technology. Formerly a chemical engineer for 32 years with the Department of Defense at Aberdeen Proving Ground, he retired in 2005 and continued his career on a consultant basis with Battelle in Aberdeen. Memorial contributions may be made in Michael's memory to Havre de Grace Decoy Museum or The Community Projects of Havre de Grace: Opera House Foundation.

### James R. Doherty, Jr.

The decoy world suffered a great loss on Wednesday, August 14, 2013 when James R. Doherty Jr., 76, died of heart failure at his home in Moorestown, NJ.

John Clayton, writing in *Decoy Magazine*, said that, "His decoy collection was well rounded and would be considered one of the finest in the country, but his New Jersey collection, without a doubt, is considered the best. And he was always willing to share them, allowing major pieces to be exhibited at the Ward Museum on several occasions." The Tuckerton Seaport and Baymen's Museum named him its Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy Collector of the Year in 1995.

Raised in Philadelphia, Mr. Doherty graduated in 1955 from Collingswood High School, and later earned a bachelor's degree in business administration at Temple University in 1965 and an MBA there in 1969. A genuine entrepreneur, Mr. Doherty began his career working for his father at Food Fair, was the sales manager at Westvaco, started Premier Packaging in 1970, and in 1991 purchased and was CEO of Weber Display & Packaging.



# 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 Decoy Museum:**

---

CAROL ABRAMS	RANDY HAAS	FRANK MULLER
DANIEL AHERNE	STEPHEN & KIMBERLY HADDAWAY	THOMAS O'BRIEN
SHIRLEY K. & RUTH M. ALGER	HOWARD HALL	SCOTT PEACH, SR.
JOHN ARCHER	LEONARD & TERRI HAMILTON	CHARLES K. PETERSON
JIM AUGUSTUS & FAMILY	JOHN M. HANNA	ERIC J. PITMAN
A. MARIE BANNISTER	MARIE HANNA	LAWRENCE POLLIN
TERRY BARLEY	GORDON K. HARDEN, SR.	ELLIS & EDIE PORTER
FLOYD BASSETT, JR.	JOE HARRIS & FAMILY	NORMAN L. PRITCHETT
WILLIAM BERG	JOSEPH & ANGELA HASLBECK	PETER RAMSEY, JR.
REESE & KELLY BRIDGMAN	HUGH S. HATCHER	MARGARET REEL
JIM & JACKIE BRITTON	NATE HEES & FAMILY	JEFFREY REIDER
BERNARD & DORIS BROWN	DANIEL HEINY	VICTOR REYNOLDS
RONALD BROWNING & MARK VERVALIN	WARREN S. HISS	ROBERT RICH & FAMILY
GEORGE BUCHNESS	RALPH & PAT HOCKMAN	DR. WILLIAM RIENHOFF III
ROBERT CARSON	C.A. PORTER & PATTI HOPKINS	TED RINEER
BARBARA CHURCHVILLE & FAMILY	KAREN JACKSON & JEFFREY PROCTOR	DR. JOHN & FAITH ROACHE & FAMILY
DEBORAH CLEGG & FAMILY	JAMES C. JOHNSON	PHILIP & BEVERLY RYSER
G. RONALD CLEMENTS	FINLEY JONES & FAMILY	WARREN SAUNDERS & FAMILY
ANNE L. CONOVER	JAMES JORDAN JR	CHAD SCARBOROUGH & FAMILY
WILLIAM CORBISHLEY & FAMILY	MADLYN KALINOSKI	MANFRED K. SCHEEL
SCOTT CRAWFORD	ELSIE L.W. KASTE	MICHAEL SCHLEUPNER
EDWIN & DENISE CROCKER	ROBERT KEEN	GARY SCHUCHARDT
JON DEETER	KEN & KAY KEETLEY	DOUG SHANNON & FAMILY
ROCCO & ANN DIGIOVANNI	KEVIN KERRIGAN & FAMILY	GEORGE STINCHCOMB
CHARLES DILLA	CARL KILHOFFER	KENNETH STRYCHARZ
PAT DOHERTY	DONALD M. KIRSON	RICH & JENNIFER TABELING
JOHN DOWNS	ASHLEY LARRIMORE	MARK TERRY
ROSE MARY EVANS	PETER MACGAFFIN	HARRY TILLMAN, SR. & FAMILY
KEN FINKENBINDER	SEAN MANN & FAMILY	GEORGE R. TIMMONS
SUSAN FORWOOD	WILLIAM MASTER	H. EDWARD TOWNSLEY
M. DOUGLAS GATES	PAUL A. MAZZILLI	KEVIN & BETH VICKERY
MICHAEL GOAD & FAMILY	FREEDA MCCLURE	MR. & MRS. DONALD K. WALTER
RUSS GOLDBERGER	J. NOBLE MENTZER	RAY WHETZEL
MASON & RUTH GOODPASTER	WILLIAM & PATRICIA MENTZER	PAT & JERRY WHITED
ROBERT GREGG	GEORGE MEYER	RICHARD & KITT WILLIAMS
GENE GREGORY SR.	ALAN & JUDY MILLER	KARL M. YUREK
JOHN & ELIZABETH GROSS	JOSEPH & BELINDA MILLER & FAMILY	GREG & DEBORAH ZAVOYNA
CARL GROVE	GEORGE MILTO	
CAROLYN GUERRINA	RON MOFFATT	





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Highlights of the Decoy Museum's Current 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 Exhibit, second floor gallery*
- *An exhibit of Factory Decoys, donated by Dr. M. Kramer, second floor 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.



## The Ward Foundation Education Series

Call the Ward Foundation for a complete listing of this year's seminars, classes and workshops, programs and exhibits. To contact them please visit their website at [www.wardmuseum.org](http://www.wardmuseum.org)

DECEMBER 6TH	DECEMBER 8TH
<p><b>FIRST FRIDAYS!</b> 6pm. Come and watch the annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting with Santa!! For more information contact: HdG Main Street at 410-939-1811; Email: <a href="mailto:hdgmainstreet@verizon.net">hdgmainstreet@verizon.net</a> or <a href="http://www.mainstreethdg.org">http://www.mainstreethdg.org</a></p>	<p><b>41st Candlelight Tour</b> 4:00- 8:00 PM. Take a tour of selected Havre de Grace historic homes and buildings. Enjoy the candlelight illuminated streets of Havre de Grace and songs of Christmas carolers.</p> <p>Tickets purchased before December 1st are \$15 each, after December 1st \$18 each. For more information contact: Susquehanna Museum of HdG at the Lock House at 410-939-5780; email: <a href="mailto:lockhousemuseum@gmail.com">lockhousemuseum@gmail.com</a> or visit <a href="http://www.thelockhousemuseum.org/">http://www.thelockhousemuseum.org/</a></p>
DECEMBER 7TH TO DECEMBER 8TH	DECEMBER 15TH TO DECEMBER 25TH
<p><b>Christmas Boutique Saturday.</b> 9AM- 3PM, Sunday noon- 8PM. Enjoy shopping in a historic setting at the Lock House for hand crafted traditional holiday shopping. All of the items are one of a kind made by the Lock House ladies. Fresh greens will be available. For more information contact: Susquehanna Museum of HdG at the Lock House at 410-939-5780; email: <a href="mailto:lockhousemuseum@gmail.com">lockhousemuseum@gmail.com</a> or visit <a href="http://www.thelockhousemuseum.org/">http://www.thelockhousemuseum.org/</a></p> <p><b>Christmas Open House.</b> 11am- 4pm. Historic farmhouse decorated for the holidays, music in the parlor, cider and cookies in the kitchen. Museum store will be open for holiday gift shopping. Admission is free. For more information call 410-939-2299; email: <a href="mailto:director@steppingstonemuseum.org">director@steppingstonemuseum.org</a> or visit <a href="http://www.steppingstonemuseum.org/">http://www.steppingstonemuseum.org/</a></p>	<p><b>SUSQUEHANNA MINISTERIUM: Annual Outdoor Nativity Scene Contest.</b> Register by calling the Susquehanna Ministerium by Dec. 14 to be recognized for residential or business awards. Open to greater HdG community. For more information call 410-939-5233</p>
	DECEMBER 29TH
	<p><b>SUSQUEHANNA MINISTERIUM: HdG Church Tour.</b> 2:00-4:00PM. Self-guided tour of Havre de Grace's 19th and 20th century churches. Beautiful stained glass windows and nativity scenes angelically decorated for Christ's birth. Admission is free. For more information call 410-939-2464</p>

#### DECEMBER 31ST

**New Years Eve Duck Drop & Fireworks.** Begin the countdown to 2014 by enjoying the annual Duck Drop and Fireworks celebration at 451 Lewis Lane (on the grounds of the Activity Center and HdG Middle School). For more information call 410-939-2100

#### JANUARY 25, 2014.

**7th Annual Vintage Hunting and Fishing Collectibles Show .** 8am-9am admission is charged. The show features decoys, oyster cans, gunpowder tins, rods, reels, fishing lures, ephemera, hunting and fishing licenses and more. Located at Level Fire Hall, 3633 Level Village Road, Havre de Grace, MD.

For more information contact: Patrick Vincenti 410-734-6238 or Chuck Usilton 410-378-3528. Proceeds benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and Level Fire Company.

#### MAY 2, 3, 4, 2014

**33rd Annual Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival.** Friday 6pm -9pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 10am – 4pm. Admission is \$10 . Join us for our annual festival. Carvers & Wildlife Artists will be joined by hunting outfitters, suppliers and merchants. Retrieving dog demonstrations, Carving Competitions, a live auction and silent auctions included.

For more information contact the Decoy Museum at 410-939-3739.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

**[www.hdgtourism.com](http://www.hdgtourism.com)**

### VINCENTI DECOYS



[www.vincentidecoys.com](http://www.vincentidecoys.com)

#### Store – Jeannie

353 Pennington Ave.  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

410-734-7709

#### Decoy Shop – Pat

303 West Lane  
Churchville, MD 21028

410-734-6238

### PIERCE'S DECOYS

Collector & Carver of  
**GUNNING DECOYS**

MADE IN THE FINE UPPER BAY TRADITION



Jim Pierce  
318 N. Lapidum Rd.  
Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078

(410) 939-2272

## Dominicks Pizza



995 Pulaski Hwy  
Elkton, MD 21921  
(410) 398-8900

## State Line Liquors

*"One of America's Top Wine & Beer Shoppes"*

1610 Elkton Road, Elkton, MD 21921  
800.446.9463 410.398.3838

[www.statelineliqors.com](http://www.statelineliqors.com)

#### The Murrays & The Ostrands

3rd Generation Proprietors  
[stateline@statelineliqors.com](mailto:stateline@statelineliqors.com)



121 South Main Street • North East, MD 21901



**JOHN A. FORD**  
Broker/Owner

Direct (443) 553-3187

Office (410) 287-8080 • Fax (410) 287-7511

E-mail [johnford@mrj.com](mailto:johnford@mrj.com)

Website [www.IntegrityRealEstateOnline.com](http://www.IntegrityRealEstateOnline.com)

Paul & Richard Montgomery,  
Owners

*Where making memories  
is always in season.*



**CHERRY GROVE TREE FARM**

689 Little New York Road Rising Sun, Maryland, 21911  
(410) 658-3434 [www.cherrygrovetreefarm.com](http://www.cherrygrovetreefarm.com)



# Fall Rattle 2013

## HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

A chance to win ONE of five valuable prizes. Five tickets will be drawn, and the prizes will be awarded in the order drawn. Winners will be notified as soon as possible after the drawing.

**Tickets are \$5.00 each**

6 for \$25.00 or 10 for \$40.00



**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**  
**COOT**

by Past Honorary Chairman Charles Bryan



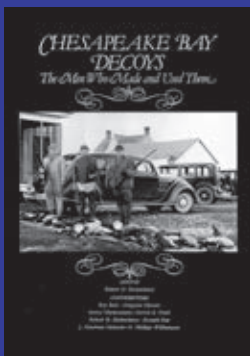
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**  
**PAIR OF CANVASBACKS**

by Past Honorary Chairman  
Tom Humberstone



**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**  
**GOLDEN EYE**

by Charles Jobs



**4<sup>th</sup> Prize**

**COMBINATION BOOK & PRINT**

The book, *Chesapeake Bay Decoys and the Men who Made & Used Them*, plus the Paul Shertz Print of Charlie Bryan Wigeons



**5<sup>th</sup> Prize**  
**CORK TEAL**

by Jeff Coats

Drawing will be held 4 pm on December 15, 2013.

For tickets call **410-939-3739**.

(additional tickets are available at the Museum)



# MacGregor's

*Restaurant, Tavern, Banquet Room*

*Open 365 Days a Year!*

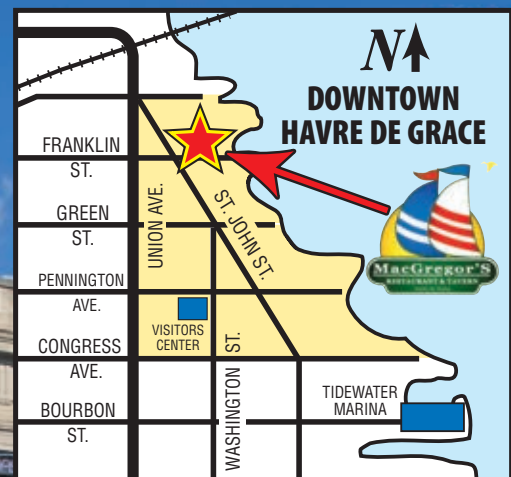
**All Dining Room  
Tables Have  
Waterview**

**Daily Specials**

**Lunch, Dinner  
Lite Fare & Sunday  
Brunch**

**Children's Menu**

**All-Season Pearl Bar  
& Deck**



**331 St. John Street • Havre de Grace, MD 21078**  
**410.939.3003**  
**[www.MacGregorsRestaurant.com](http://www.MacGregorsRestaurant.com)**