

35TH ANNUAL HAVRE DE GRACE

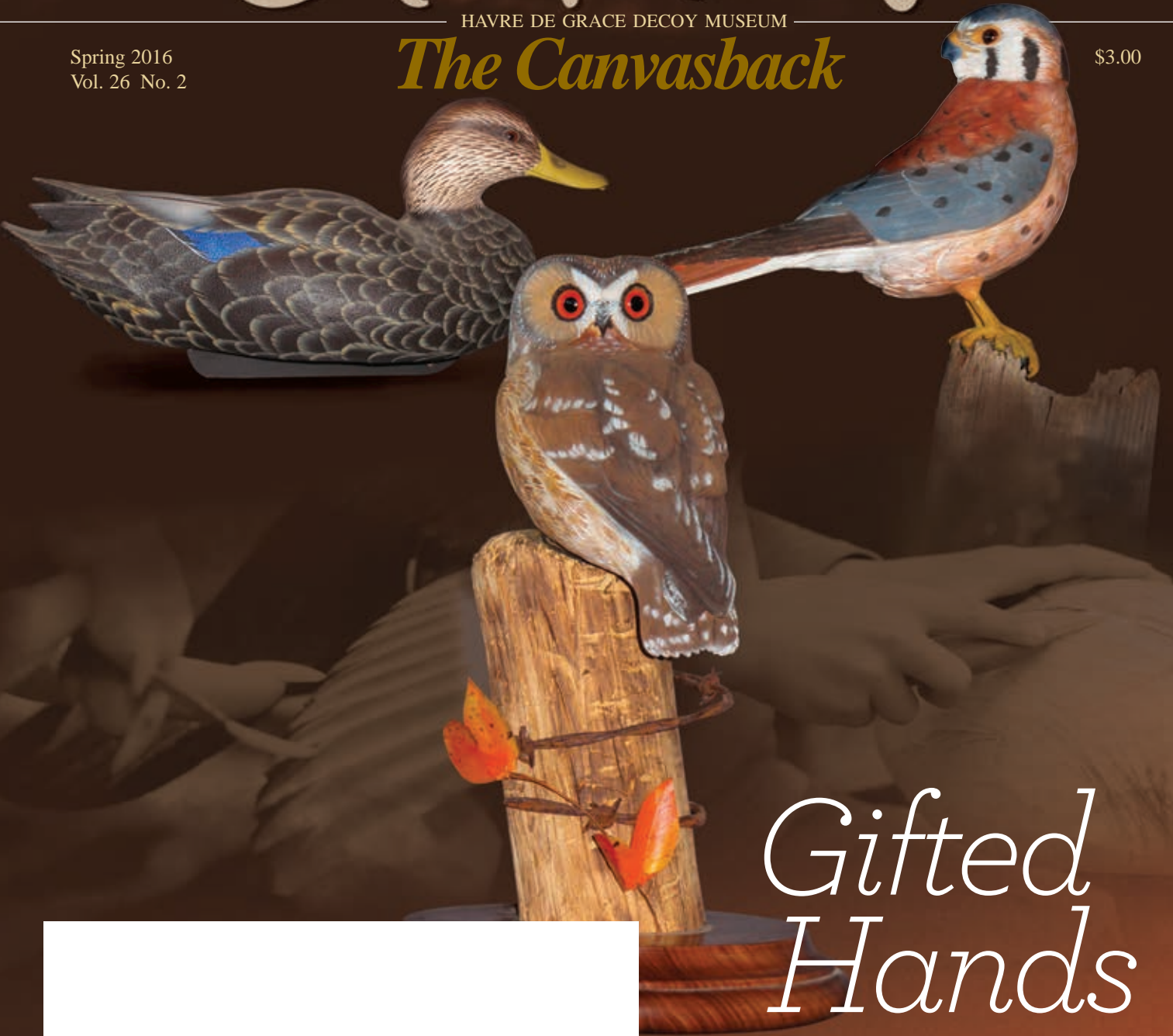
Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

Spring 2016
Vol. 26 No. 2

The Canvasback

\$3.00



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Hands*



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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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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.



Thank You

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ON THE COVER

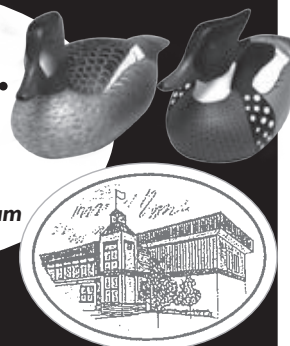
The 2016 Festival co-chairs display three stunning creations made by their gifted hands: a Black Duck painted by Shannon Dimmig that was exhibited at the Smithsonian; an American Kestrel by Jonathan Irons; and a Saw Whet Owl by Daniel Irons. ■

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From the President

Dear Museum Member,

As I write this letter, spring is getting closer and I am once again happy to see winter in the rearview mirror. Our 9th annual Susquehanna Flats Vintage Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Show dodged a bullet as there was time to clean up from a record-breaking storm before

the show on January 30th at the Level Volunteer Fire Company. Lots of time and effort by great volunteers from both the Level VFC and the Decoy Museum went into this successful joint event, which set a new attendance record. Thanks to all and especially to Chuck and Lynn Usilton and to my wife and partner Jeannie for their leadership.

The 23rd annual R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust Banquet was held on Friday, March 11th at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace. The Trust was established to carry out Mr. Mitchell's vision for the Decoy Museum, and its mission is to aid the Decoy Museum's acquisition, interpretation, and preservation of decoys and related waterfowl artifacts. The primary source of funds for the Trust is the annual banquet, and our loyal supporters made this year another sellout.

The banquet was memorable both as Mr. Mitchell's 115th birthday and as the first since the death of our beloved Madelyn Mitchell Shank in October. I could

Photo by Leo Heppner

not stop thinking about her homemade yellow mints that would be on all the tables and how people would mistake them for pats of butter. One of the highlights of the evening was the Trust's announcement of a scholarship fund in memory of our good friend and loyal supporter Leo Heppner who died this past summer. Leo's photography has illustrated *The Canvasback* and recorded the Museum's history for decades.

Our terrific team of dedicated staff, volunteers, and Directors are preparing for the 35th annual Havre de Grace Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival on May 6th, 7th, and 8th. Special thanks to Mayor Bill Martin and the Havre de Grace City Council for their support of our key fundraising event. We have chosen to honor three very talented carvers—Shannon Dimmig from Elkton, Maryland and brothers Daniel and Jonathan Irons (12 and 14) from Queenstown on Maryland's Eastern shore.

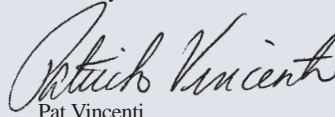
The Festival coincides with Mother's Day this year, and there is every reason to make it a family event. We are hoping for a great turnout. Mom will enjoy discovering that lady carvers like Shannon are turning out some amazing waterfowl creations, and the young people in the family may be inspired by watching Daniel and Jonathan working their magic on white pine.

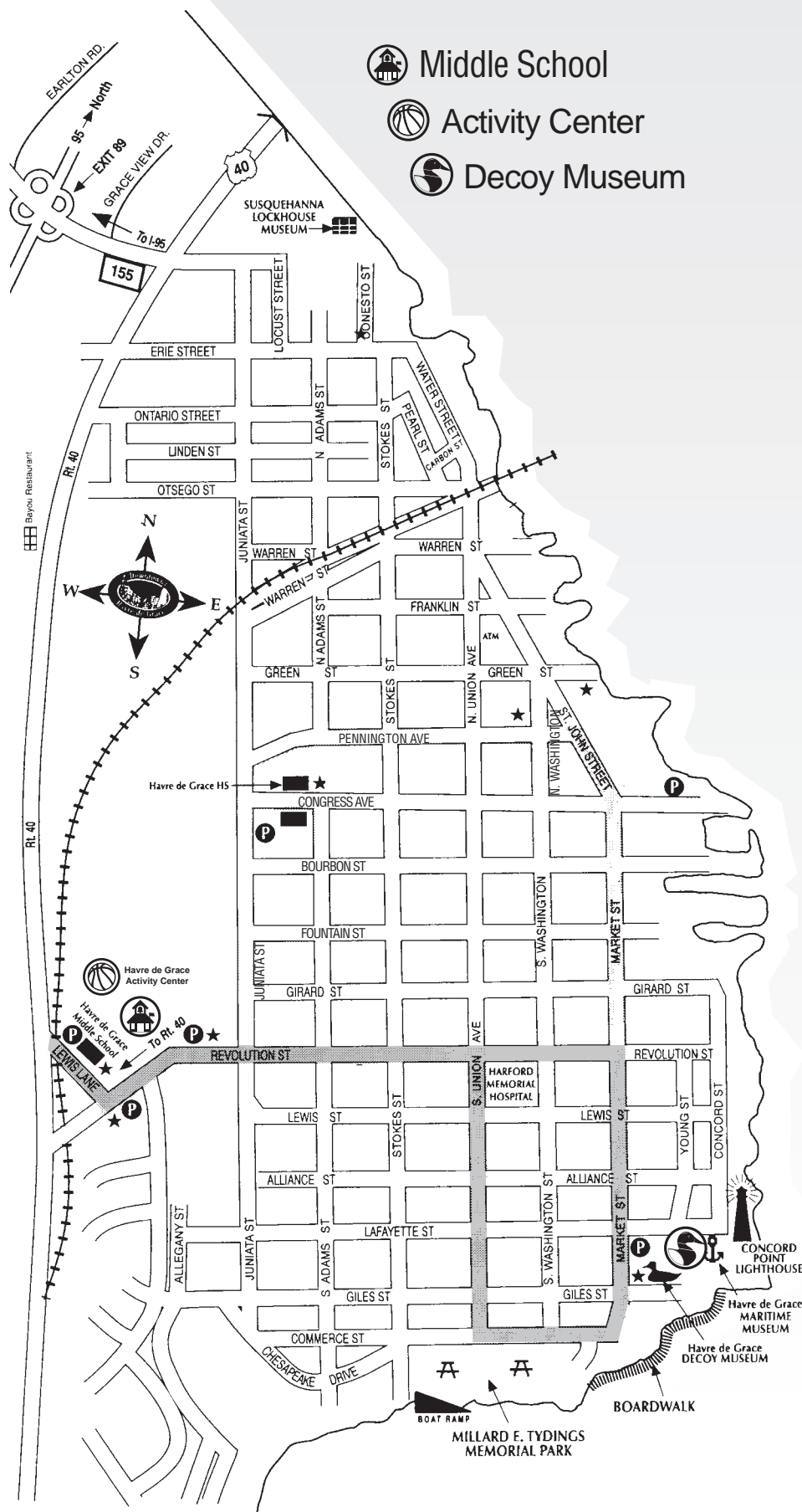
John Collier has offered us a collection of decoys by Bill Gibian of Onancock, Virginia. We hope to have these upstairs in the Carver's Gallery soon, so plan on seeing this new exhibit. We are currently preparing an application to renew Harford County's tourism-related grant that enabled us last year to bring Executive Director Kerri Kneisley onboard—a truly transformative change.

Thanks to each of you—our members, volunteers, and other supporters—we are grateful for your loyalty. Membership participation is so important to us. Please be active, attend our events, and introduce your friends and family to the wonders of the Decoy Museum.

I look forward to seeing you and our visitors at the Decoy Festival on Mother's Day weekend—May 6th, 7th, and 8th.

Sincerely,


Pat Vincenti



DIRECTIONS TO THE DECOY FESTIVAL

From I-95: Use Exit 89 and follow MD Rt. 155 east (toward Havre de Grace) about 3 miles.

To the Middle School: Stay in right lane under the railroad bridge and bear right. Continue past the cemetery to the traffic light, and bear right onto US Route 40. At next traffic light, turn left onto Lewis Lane. Continue over the railroad bridge, and the Middle School is on the left.

To the Decoy Museum: Stay in left lane under the railroad bridge. Turn right onto Juniata St. at the end. At second traffic light, turn left onto Revolution St. Go to the next traffic light and turn right onto Union Ave. Go to the end of Union Ave. and turn left onto Commerce St. Follow Commerce St. around the bend (name changes to Market St.) to Giles Street. The Decoy Museum is on the right, and you may use the on-street parking.

From US Rt. 40: Turn east onto Lewis Lane at the traffic light (right if northbound, left if southbound).

To the Middle School: Continue over the railroad bridge, and the Middle School is on the left.

To the Decoy Museum: Continue past the Middle School to the end of Lewis Lane and turn left onto Revolution St. Go to the second traffic light and turn right onto Union Ave. Then follow the directions (above) from I-95 to the Decoy Museum.

FESTIVAL 2016 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Carving Competitions

Dale Heitcamp
Bill Veasey
George Williams
Matt Kneisley
Scott Green
Brian Lilly

Exhibitor Breakfast

Jeannie Vincenti
MacGregor's Restaurant

Exhibitor & Sponsor Reception

MacGregor's Restaurant
Patrick & Jeannie Vincenti

Festival Chairman

Patrick Vincenti

Festival Coordinator

Margaret Jones

Finances

Ralph Hockman
Mindy Elledge

Food & Beverage Service

Bruce Beuttner
Terri Hobson
Puzzle Up/Lisa Perkins
Apple Valley Caterers

Gift Shop

Samantha Castillo

Havre de Grace Activity Center

Hospitality Room

Information Tables

Marketing

Membership

Middle School Principal

Museum Director

Museum Registrar

Old Decoy Contest

Security

Havre de Grace Police Department

Silent Auction

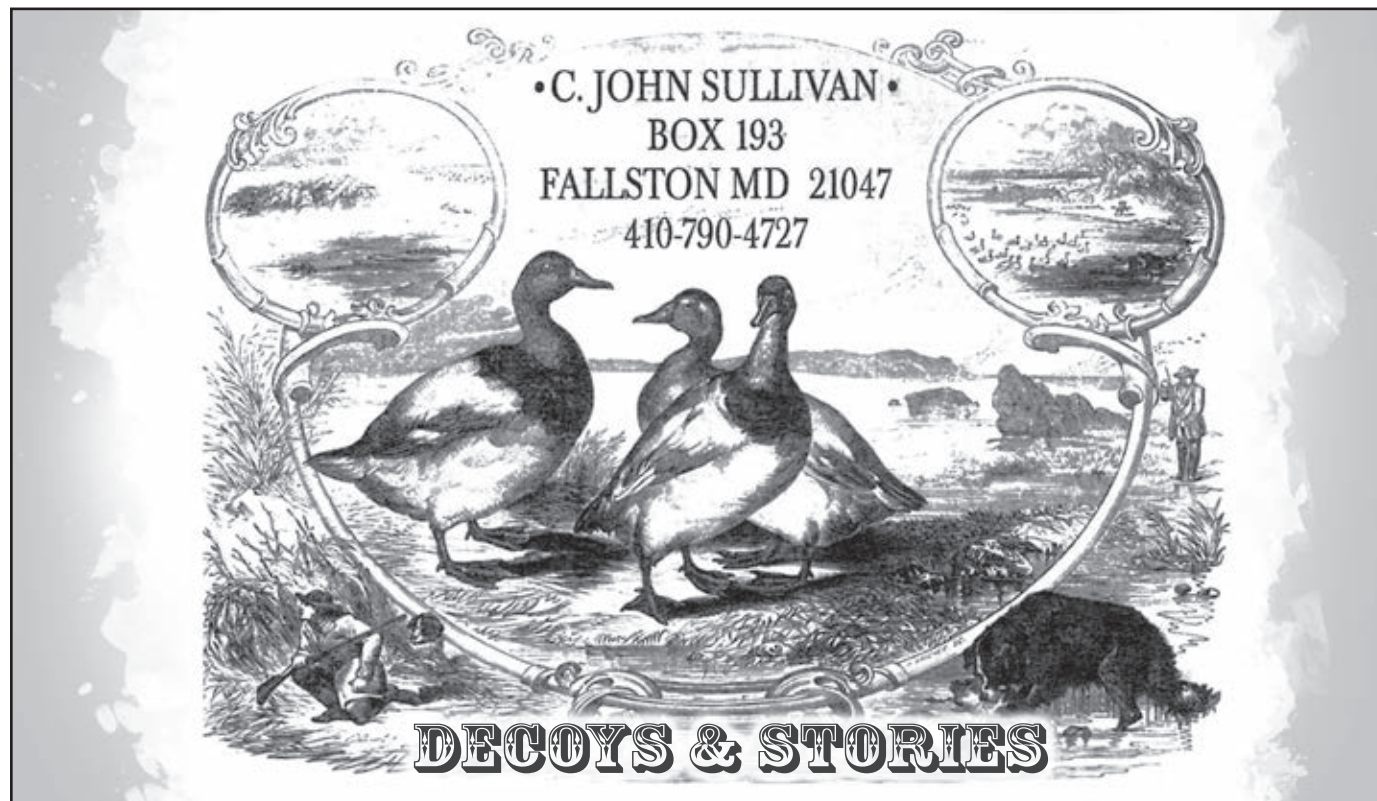
Pat Hockman
Nora Bye
Mary Cowan

Special Programs

Delta Dogs
Raptor's Eye

Volunteer Coordinator

Margaret Jones



PROGRAM

May 6, 7, & 8

2016 Honorary Chairs

Shannon Dimming • Daniel Irons • Jonathan Irons

DECOY FESTIVAL ADMISSION

\$10 for the ENTIRE WEEKEND

Friday, Saturday and Sunday!

Children 12 and under free with an adult.

Locations



Havre de Grace Decoy
Museum, Giles Street






Havre de Grace Middle
School, Lewis Lane



Havre de Grace Activity
Center, Lewis Lane

Friday, May 6TH

6:00 – 9:00 PM

Carvers, Exhibitors, and Vendors   
(See Posted Schedules)

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Carving Competition Registration 

Saturday, May 7TH

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Goose and Duck Calling Competition Registration . . . 

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Carving Competition Registration 

Carving Competition River Gunning

Events Registration 

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Carvers, Exhibitors, and Vendors   
(See Posted Schedules)

Goose and Duck Calling Competition 

10:00 AM

Old Decoy Contest Registration Opens  STAGE


10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Raptors 
Near Rear Admission Entrance Facing The Activity Center

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM


Silent Auctions  HALLWAY
By Front Admission Entrance Facing Revolution Street

10:30 AM – Until Complete

Atlantic Flyway Classic Carving
Competition Judging 

- 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
- Gunning Decoy Division
- Shorebird Division

10:30 AM – Until Complete

Atlantic Flyways Classic Carving
Competition Judging  GROUNDS

- River Gunning Decoy Division
- Ed Watts Gunning Rig Division
- Tandem, Single, Pairs Competition

12:00 PM & 2:00 PM

Retriever Dog Demonstrations  GROUNDS

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Old Decoy Contest  STAGE

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Silent Auctions  HALLWAY
By Front Admission Entrance Facing Revolution Street

1:00 PM & 3:00 PM

Sculling Boat Demonstrations  GROUNDS
View From The Promenade

Sunday, May 8TH

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Carvers, Exhibitors, And Vendors   
(See Posted Schedules)

3:30 PM

Festival Raffle Drawing  LOBBY
By Front Admission Entrance Facing Revolution Street

4:00 PM

Festival Closes

FRIDAY

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

SATURDAY

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

SUNDAY

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

HAVRE DE GRACE
MIDDLE SCHOOL

401 Lewis Lane
Artists & Carvers

HAVRE DE GRACE
ACTIVITY CENTER

351 Lewis Lane
Carving Competition
Goose and Duck
Calling Contest

HAVRE DE GRACE
DECAY MUSEUM

215 Giles Street
Gunning Carving
Competition

FESTIVAL CHAIRS
SHANNON DIMMIG • DANIEL IRONS • JONATHAN IRONS



35TH ANNUAL | HAVRE DE GRACE

Decoy & Wildlife ART FESTIVAL

MAY 6-7-8 • 2016



9TH Annual SUSQUEHANNA FLATS VINTAGE HUNTING & FISHING COLLECTIBLES SHOW

By Jim Trimble

Eighty-five tables of mostly old waterfowling and fishing artifacts welcomed over 600 paying collectors — a new record — as they wandered the packed aisles of this one-day show that was held Saturday, January 30th. The venue was the well-lit and spacious Level Volunteer Fire Company Banquet Hall located just outside of Havre de Grace, Maryland. Raffle item winners were announced periodically throughout the day. Show proceeds benefit both the Level VFC and the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum where show co-sponsor Pat Vincenti serves as President. The Museum also operated a table where items from the museum Gift Shop were sold. Show organizers Pat and Jeannie Vincenti and Chuck and Lynn Usilton are seasoned decoy collectors, who run a good show with emphasis on vintage.



There was still plenty of snow from the prior weekend's mid-Atlantic's snow blizzard (20-36-inches depending on who you talked to) still on the ground; but the lots had been cleared for this event. Both visitors and vendors seemed pleased to re-connect with like-minded wooden waterfowl enthusiasts. Old Chesapeake Bay gunning decoys were in abundance. Delaware collectors Bert and Ann Campbell had a nice assortment of old gunners as well as some nice folk art items. Of particular interest was a nice original scratch painted pintail gunner made by Chincoteague's Ira Hudson. Annapolis area vendor Erik Steinline displayed a table full of Chesapeake gunners as well as a variety of oyster stuffs. Kent Island vendors Steve & Bill Dorrell also had a variety of oyster stuffs as well as some fine mid-bay decoys. Noteworthy on their table was a fine original paint Alvin Meekins merganser and a fine early original paint Paul Gibson sleeping black duck.

Chesapeake Bay historian John Sullivan had a fine display of 15 not-for-sale stick-up doves by a variety of area makers. He also displayed five unique early goldeneye original paint decoys, again not-for-sale, by makers Bob McGaw, John Glenn, Jim Holly, Sam Barnes, and Madison Mitchell. The Mitchell goldeneye was from the 1940s and previously resided in Mitchell's shop as a paint pattern example of what a goldeneye decoy should look like. Sullivan was also signing a variety of his authored books that were on his table for sale. Jon Frank was on hand with displays of decoys for his forthcoming decoy auction to be held April 3rd, along the Jersey coast. Most of the vendors with whom I spoke were pleased with how the show is run, the quality items offered, and the buying crowd that it draws. Many/most of these same vendors will participate in the East Coast Decoy Collector's upcoming April 8th & 9th show to be held in St. Michaels, Maryland. ■



FESTIVAL 2016

EXHIBITORS



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Blanchette Decoys



098

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Bodt Decoys LLC



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170, 0171

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Round Hill Art



103, 104

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410-758-6526
Capt. Bill Collins Decoys



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C. Jason Connellee

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Connellee Calls



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Bill & Pauline Cordrey

Barneget Light, NJ 08006



017

John Cranmer

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boatmakers@yahoo.com
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181

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199

Shannon Dimmig

34 Cherry Lane
Elkton, MD 21921
302-383-2476
Fine Carvings



191, 192

**Festival
2016
Honorary
Chair**

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Wye River Antiques



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Extraordinary Turning



098A



photos by Leo Heppner and Terri Shepke-Heppner

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ptailruddy@verizon.net
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 **064**

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 **105**

Jeremy Houser
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Old Working Decoys
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Youth Carvers
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2016
Honorary
Chairs**

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 **158**


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 **085, 086**

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Capt. Harry Jobs
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 **021**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



HONORARY CHAIRMEN

We've supplied some... see how many other signatures you can get at the Festival!



1982

R. Madison Mitchell

Havre de Grace, Maryland

1901-1993

R. Madison Mitchell

R. Madison Mitchell was one of the most renowned and prolific decoy makers ever known. Steve Ward, another celebrated carver, described Mr. Mitchell as making "the best canvasback decoy on the Chesapeake Bay." Waterfowl historians estimate that Mr. Mitchell made over 100,000 finely crafted decoys. Mr. Mitchell left a large footprint in terms of his surviving decoys, the Decoy Museum, the R. Madison Endowment Trust, the Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival, and the countless decoy makers who learned the "Mitchell style" in his shop. With the assistance of an old duplicating lathe, R. Madison Mitchell changed forever the design and production of Upper Chesapeake Bay decoys. He, more so than anybody else, made Havre de Grace "The Decoy Capital of the World".



1983

Paul Gibson

Havre de Grace, Maryland

1902-1985

Paul Gibson

"Carving decoys here is like the water; it's almost the same as your religion. It's what you were brought up in. It's how you were raised." This is how the second Honorary Chairman of the Festival described the relationship between Havre de Grace residents and decoys. All of his decoys were hand-made until he bought Mr. Mitchell's old lathe. Gibson's sturdy decoys have chunky features and heads of white pine. He carved in the "Havre de Grace style", but the bodies and tails of his birds are thicker than usual and have shorter necks. Gibson could carve any species, but was locally famous for his swans.

HONORARY CHAIRMEN



1984

Charles Bryan

Middle River, Maryland

1920–2008

Charles Bryan

Charlie Bryan was born in Baltimore County, Maryland. He took a liking to hunting for ducks and geese and became an avid water fowler on the Susquehanna Flats. At the age of 36, he began to carve decoys and make bird silhouettes. When he first started making decoys, he had never seen anybody do it. He later met Madison Mitchell and eventually made other carving friends in Havre de Grace. Over the next fifty years, Charlie became a skilled and well-known carver in the Havre de Grace style.

1985

- No Honorary Chairman



1986

Robert "Bob" Litzenberg

Elkton, Maryland

1910–1997

Robert H. Litzenberg

Bob Litzenberg started with a love of hunting. He was raised four miles from the Elk River near Elkton and began hunting in the Depression era. During his lifetime, he hunted ducks by bushwhacking, from a sinkbox, and from a duck blind. As with most people at that time, he didn't have much money. If he was going to hunt, he needed to make his own decoys. He eventually met and befriended noted carver Will Heverin who hand chopped his own bodies and carved his own heads with a knife. Litzenberg followed suit and never did use a machine to make a decoy.



1987

Charles "Speed" Joiner, Jr.

Chestertown, Maryland

1921–2015

Charlie Joiner

Charlie's nickname of "Speed" is usually attributed to his deft skill at carving and painting; however, he claimed that he inherited it from his father and that its real origin is unknown. Speed began decoy making as a teenager and is regarded as one of the most interesting and important carvers of the Upper Chesapeake Bay. In his own words, "I've carved a few ducks". With over 40,000 working decoys and an unknown number of miniature and half size decoys to his credit, he considered the canvasback to be his carving specialty. Charlie was a long-time friend of legendary carvers R. Madison Mitchell and Steve and Lem Ward whose style of carving and painting inspired his own. He was a Charter Member of the Decoy Museum and one of our most devoted supporters from the beginning.



1988

Captain Harry Jobes

Aberdeen, Maryland

Born 1936

Born in Havre de Grace, Harry Jobes spent considerable time in the shops of decoy makers Charles Nelson Barnard and Jim Currier. After Barnard died, he worked for Madison Mitchell for 28 years and says he was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



The 23rd Annual **R. Madison Mitchell** **ENDOWMENT TRUST BANQUET**

The 2016 R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust banquet was held at the Bayou Restaurant on Friday, March 11th—Mr. Mitchell's 115th birthday. As always, it was an early sell-out with about 250 decoy makers, collectors, waterfowlers, and other supporters from both sides of the Bay and up into Pennsylvania and New Jersey. This great

event enables the Trust and our supporters to renew and strengthen our ties and to have a wonderful and memorable evening in the process. Lou and Terry Ward and the Bayou staff always serve an excellent dinner that is preceded by a cocktail mingle.

The evening's program recognized many supporters who have made important con-





tributions of time, money, and in-kind donations. Delta Waterfowl has always been a key supporter in many ways of both the Endowment and the Museum, and this year was no exception with a generous \$2,500 donation. The Endowment itself announced a contribution of a complete set of Joe Fallon miniatures to the Museum. We will have them on display very soon.

The big news was the establishment of a scholarship fund in memory of photographer Leo Heppner who died unexpectedly last summer. Leo was a longtime and loyal supporter of the Endowment and the Museum who for decades gave generously of his time and artistic skill. His widow Terri Shepke was sole photographer this year and gave a moving acceptance speech. We all loved Leo.

Supporter Diane Smith immediately stepped up with a \$2,500 donation in support of the Heppner scholarship fund. The silent auction, live auction, and raffles gave all supporters a chance to walk away with something. The lottery items this year were 14 early Madison Mitchell canvasback gunning decoys and 14 miniature cast-iron swans in the style of Bob McGaw that were carved and cast by Dr. John Carriere and donated by the estate of John and his late wife Gail.

The Endowment is vital to the future of the Decoy Museum, and we are very grateful to Pat and Jeannie Vincenti, the other officers and directors of the Trust, their many volunteers, and all of our awesome and loyal supporters who made the banquet another successful fundraiser. ■

Legendary decoy maker R. Madison Mitchell was a driving force behind the creation of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and the Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival, now in its 35th year. The Endowment Trust, a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation, was established by Mr. Mitchell to provide a permanent, long-range source of support to the Decoy Museum. The Endowment exists solely to aid the Museum's acquisition, interpretation, and preservation of decoys, waterfowl artifacts, and other appropriate projects. To date, the Endowment has raised over \$1 million.

HONORARY CHAIRMEN

influenced the most by his painting and carving. Like his fellow carvers, making decoys was an avocation. He spent much of his life working on research vessels and piloting a patrol boat at Aberdeen Proving Ground. He is easily spotted at shows and other events in his signature outfit of Panama hat, suspenders, duck pants, and hand knitted "Captain Jobses" sweaters.



1989

**Captain William E.
"Bill" Collins**

Centreville, Maryland

Born 1949

Born at Perry Point and raised in Perryville, Bill Collins began hunting and repairing decoys at an early age under the encouragement and tutelage of his older brother. Not long after graduating from high school, Madison Mitchell hired him for a job in his funeral home and then informed him that they would be working in the decoy shop between funeral duties. In 1981, Collins bought the Mitchell shop and opened it as Upper Chesapeake Bay Decoys. In 1987, Collins sold Mitchell's lathe, machine tools, and fixtures to the Decoy Museum, and the shop was reconstructed on the Museum property.



1990

Captain Roger Urie

Rock Hall, Maryland

1933–2002



At thirteen, Roger Urie began painting and making decoy bodies and heads for Captain John Glen, his next-door neighbor. His father, Captain Jess Urie, also started to make decoys, and Roger showed him how to mix colors. They used Glen's patterns initially and later designed their own with a flat bottom. In 1955, Roger built "a decoy machine", and all the bodies were turned on the lathe after that. In 1967, the Uries started to make miniature decoys. Urie decoys were all signed by Captain Jess Urie until his death in 1978. Following that, Roger made only miniature decoys.



1991

James Pierce

Havre de Grace, Maryland

Born 1934

Jim Pierce was raised two blocks from Paul Gibson's shop, and his grandfather lived next door to Bob McGaw's. He and his friend Harry Jobses visited Madison Mitchell's shop where Jim worked doing "a little bit of everything". He later set up his own shop where he and his son Charlie continue to work and train younger men, as Mitchell trained him. Jim describes his style of carving as the Flats Connection: "The body and head are patterned after a Holly, and I use McGaw and Heverin painting." In 1980, he agreed to help some friends put together a decoy festival in Havre de Grace using the profits to start a decoy museum. The first Havre de Grace Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival was held in 1981. When the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum opened in 1986, Jim was named president.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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FESTIVAL 2016

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HONORARY CHAIRMEN



1992

James A. "Jim" Currier

Havre de Grace, Maryland
1886–1971

James A. Currier

Jim Currier is one of the most prominent carvers of the Susquehanna Flats, widely known for navigating the Susquehanna Flats in his 40-foot boat to serve the Northern "sports" who came down to hunt canvasbacks. He carved his decoys in a workshop behind his house, working alone. Bodies were hand chopped and finished with a drawknife. Most of his decoys portray low head or contented positions, but with some high-necked canvasbacks. The distinctive heads and feather-like painting set Currier's decoys apart from others. Very few of his decoys are left in the area.



1993

Bill Schaub

Chestertown, Maryland
Born 1938

Allan Schaub

Chestertown, Maryland
Born 1957

The Schaubers are father and son, but they do not make decoys together. They have similar painting styles, but father Bill focuses on full-size decoys while Allan, who grew up watching his father make decoys, produces miniatures and half-sizes. Learning from his father was somewhat complicated by the fact that Allan is left-handed and his father is right-handed. Bill and Allan both claim to be strongly influenced by their mentor Charlie Joiner, and they all three span the transition from working decoys to the "slick" decorative decoys so prized today.



1994

Robert F. McGaw, Jr.

Havre de Grace, Maryland
1879–1958

Robert F. McGaw Jr.

Born on Spesutie Island, Bob McGaw and his wife moved to Havre de Grace in 1919 and set up two decoy shops behind their house. In 1929, he bought an old rifle-stock duplicating lathe and was reputedly the first local carver to use such a machine in the production of decoys. That lathe was later sold to Madison Mitchell and then to Captain Bill Collins who sold it to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. McGaw's painting style reflects the influences of Sam Barnes and the Holly family and is said by C. John Sullivan to be "among the most realistic to ever float on the Susquehanna Flats."



1995

J. Evans McKinney

Elkton, Maryland
1913–2000

J. Evans McKinney

Evans McKinney was a native of Elkton where he began both gunning and decoy collecting in 1927. McKinney met and made friends with master decoy maker Will Heverin. The hours he spent observing his mentor came in very handy, and McKinney decided in 1944 to try his own hand at it. He typically hand chopped his decoys, except for a period in the early fifties when he traded blocks of wood to Madison Mitchell for turned bodies. McKinney put together a collection of over 500 decoys and published his signature book "Decoys of the Susquehanna Flats and Their Makers" in 1987.

HONORARY CHAIRMEN



1996

Harry V. Shourds, II

Linwood, New Jersey

Born 1929

The first Honorary Chairman from outside Maryland, Shourds is a third generation carver and the grandson of the noted carver Harry V. Shourds (1861-1920) of Tuckerton, New Jersey. He started carving as a teenager in his father's decoy shop observing how it was done by a man who was considered by many to be the finest decoy maker in the New Jersey. Harry carves a classic hollow Barnegat Bay working decoy, like those of his father and grandfather, hand-chopping bodies from western cedar. He also carves several species of shorebirds, some miniatures, and songbirds.



1997

Ronald Rue

Cambridge, Maryland

1931-2005



Ron Rue made his first decoys as a teenager around 1948. His first decorative decoy was a merganser he made in 1953 or 1954. He was so proud of it he took it to Lem and Steve Ward of Crisfield, Maryland, which was the start of an enduring friendship. Their mentoring influenced his carving and painting. He carved most species of shorebirds and waterfowl, all hand chopped. Rue's carvings won many awards in the major East Coast contests, and he passed along his expertise by judging competitions or teaching others how to carve, which he enjoyed for over 30 years.



1998

Lem Ward

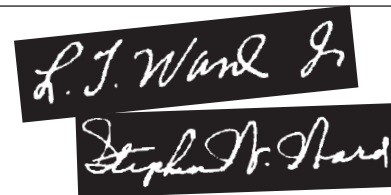
Crisfield, Maryland

1896-1984

Steve Ward

Crisfield, Maryland

1895-1976



The two Ward brothers, barbers by occupation, are regarded by many as the founders of this folk art form. It is said they produced more than 25,000 decoys and decorative birds. At first, carving decoys was just spare-time handiwork, but word got out and business began to grow. They never advertised except for a sign outside their shop saying "L.T. Ward & Bro.—Wildlife Counterfeiters in Wood." Steve did the carving, and Lem did the painting. The Ward Foundation in Salisbury, formed in their honor to exhibit their work, opened the Ward Museum in 1977. The Museum director at the time said, "Lem and Steve Ward were two of the most important men in American art history."



1999

Oliver "Tutsy" Lawson

Crisfield, Maryland

Born 1938

Tutsy Lawson began making decoys when he was ten or twelve, spending his spare time with his neighbors Lem and Steve Ward watching them carve and paint decoys. By the age of seventeen Lawson was earning good money carving and painting full size and miniature decoys. Tutsy works from nature, reference books, and bird skins. He carves waterfowl, shorebirds, upland game, and songbirds and, on occasion, crabs and other wildlife. His tools include a hatchet, chisels, and knives, but what sets him apart from most of his colleagues is his talent for painting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest 2016 COMPETITION

The 14th annual J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest will be held on Saturday, May 7th at the Middle School Gym in conjunction with the 2016 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.

A blue ribbon will be awarded for each of the ten competition category winners, and the panel will select a Best-in-Show winner. Winners are requested to display their decoys and ribbons at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum for the three months following the Festival.

Competition Categories

1. Best Cecil County Black Duck
2. Best Harford County Black Duck
3. Best Holly Family Diving Duck
4. Best Dye Family Diving Duck
5. Best Graham/Graham Family Diving Duck
6. Best Jobes Family Canvasback
(age requirements waived)
7. Best Queen Anne/Kent County Canvasback
8. Best Crisfield Black Duck
9. Best Virginia Shorebird
10. Best Unknown



Rules: Last year's winning birds are ineligible for entry, regardless of category. There are 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 their 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. Once the judges have made their selections, at approximately 1:00 p.m. the public will be invited to view the roped-off and secure tables. Competition issues will be resolved at the sole discretion of the Contest Chairman and/or the Chief Judge. Questions? Please contact contest chairman Jim Trimble (703-768-7264 or potomacduck@cox.net).

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Spring Raffle



First Prize
R. Madison Mitchell
Blue-winged Teal: Pair

2nd Prize:

\$400



Third Prize
Jim Pierce
Bufflehead: Pair



Fourth Prize
George Williams
Gadwall: Drake



Fifth Prize
Print of R. Madison Mitchell shop with
Canvasbacks: circa
1950



Winners drawn at 3:30p.m.
Sunday May 8th, during the
35th Annual Havre de Grace
Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival
at the Havre de Grace
Middle School.

TICKETS

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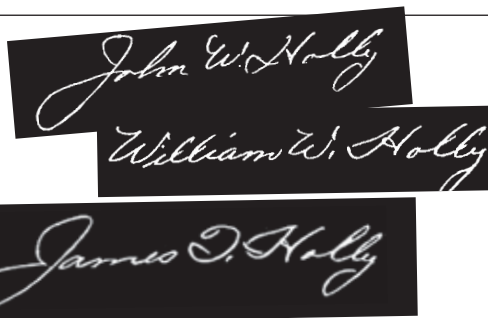
HONORARY CHAIRMEN

2000

The Holly Family

Havre de Grace, Maryland

John "Daddy" Holly (1818-1892);
William W. Holly (1847-1925);
James T. Holly (1849-1935);
and John W. Holly, jr. (1851-1927)



John "Daddy" Holly and his three sons were the innovators of the "Havre de Grace style" and made decoys in the tens of thousands. Daddy was making decoys by the early 1850s, and the Holly men worked closely together producing decoys from then well into the 20th century. Jim was a market gunner and made decoys for his use and for sale to local gunners. He refined his father's style, gaining a national reputation that placed him in the forefront of Upper Chesapeake makers. Chad Tragakis writes, "If Havre de Grace, Maryland, is indeed the 'Decoy Capital of the World', then its 'First Family' would have to be the Hollies."



2001

Charles Nelson Barnard

Havre de Grace, Maryland

1876-1958



Charles Nelson Barnard was taken out of school in the fifth grade to work on his sea-captain father's scow. There is no record of when he began carving, but it is believed that he worked alone on most of his decoys. His production probably consisted of only a few thousand pieces, and his work is in demand among collectors. He most enjoyed making miniature birds, some only an inch and a half long. His best-known works are his high neck canvasbacks. C. John Sullivan says, "Barnard birds achieved (better than any) the true look of a canvasback duck."



2002

Patrick Vincenti

Churchville, Maryland

Born 1954

Pat's family moved from New Jersey to Havre de Grace when he was a baby. In 1975, he went to work part-time in Madison Mitchell's decoy shop and set up his own shop in Churchville a year later. Pat began carving full-time in 1986 and was joined in 1987 by Captain Bill Collins, who described Vincenti as "the best painter of production decoys in the Upper Bay region." He turns out approximately 1200 decoys a year—mostly for collectors. Pat has long been a member of the Board of Directors of both the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, currently serving as its President, and of the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust, currently serving as its Treasurer.

Hold Your Next Event
at the Museum!



For details contact the Museum at
410-939-3739

HONORARY CHAIRMEN



2003

Ned Mayne

Vienna, Maryland

Born 1954

Ned Mayne is known for his decorative decoys, 75% of which are cork. He also has a reputation as a painter – his painting of a pair of black ducks was chosen for the first Delaware duck stamp. Ned began hunting with his father as a child and started carving because of his need for decoys. His interest in environmental issues now causes him to spend a lot of time in Dover, Delaware. Mayne has stopped hunting waterfowl because of steel shot regulations claiming, “It is a crippler of ducks and geese, and it is a sin to shoot them without killing cleanly.”



2004

Grayson Chesser

Jenkins Bridge, Virginia

Born 1947

Grayson Chesser is a carver and collector on Virginia’s Eastern Shore who acquired an interest in decoys at about age 12. He began carving seriously in 1976, and has carved full-time since 1984. Chesser carves hollow decoys designed to look as if they are old and hunted over even though most will never be on the water. He uses machinery to cut out the bodies, but finishes them with hand tools. Chesser has appeared on PBS, has judged Federal Duck Stamp competitions, has had decoy exhibitions at the Smithsonian, and co-authored a book titled “Making Decoys the Century-Old Way”.



2005

Jim Britton

Reedville, Virginia

Born 1934

Jim Britton carves “a hundred or so birds” per year in a workshop separate from his house near Reedville. His flat-bottomed birds are made to look like working decoys, but they are shaped and painted with the detail required for display. Knowing that his birds will most likely never go in the water, he gives more attention to detail and paint since he does not have to spend time on flotation or the placement of weights. Though he prefers diving ducks, Britton also carves “tippers”, herons, egrets, pelicans, and some songbirds.



2006

George Williams

Dover, Delaware

Born 1942

George Williams has been making decoys for about 40 years, mostly from shop space in his home. Like so many other decoy makers, he figured it would be cheaper to make his own gunning decoys. The bodies are cork and the heads and tails are cedar. George finds that cork carves faster, sits better in the water, and is easier to repair when it gets shot. He was inspired by Madison Mitchell, Roger Urie, and the Ward Brothers and makes over 150 decoys per year—“pretty much everything in the Atlantic flyway.” He encourages younger carvers, preferring to “mentor rather than teach.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

FESTIVAL CO-CHAIRS

Gifted Hands

THE REMARKABLE CREATIONS OF OUR 2015 HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

BY JAMES W. CARROLL, JR.

WHAT IS A DECOY?

Purists would argue that if a carved wooden duck has not been in the water, if it has not lured a real duck within range of a hunter, if it has not had a shotgun fired over it—well, it is strictly speaking not a decoy. The logic is unassailable, but that definition is much too narrow.

There has always been the artistic challenge of producing more finely rendered features that appeal more to people than to ducks. Even 19th-century carvers were adding neck shelves, more defined mandibles, nostrils, relief-carved wings, and other refinements that were unlikely to improve the effectiveness of a gunning decoy but served to distinguish the style and skill of the carver.

Waterfowling began to decline in the mid-1900s, and mass-produced decoys began to compete with the handcrafted folk art. Many traditional carvers faced the economic necessity of produc-

ing an alternative income stream. R. Madison Mitchell referred to his own decorative creations as “Christmas ducks” since they were more likely to be found under a Christmas tree than floating on the Susquehanna Flats. The sign outside the Crisfield, Maryland shop of legendary decoy carvers Lem and Steve Ward said it unambiguously: Wildfowl Counterfeiters in Wood. Their art evolved from classic gunning decoys to some truly spectacular counterfeit birds.

Fast forward to the present day. Contemporary carvers feel similarly challenged by the art and by the resources now available in terms of non-native woods, power tools, and paints. Our honorees for the 35th annual Havre de Grace Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival have taken decoy art to a new level and serve as an inspiration for rendering counterfeit waterfowl and other birds in wood.

Shannon Dimmig

Shannon Dimmig's step-dad was a DuPont employee who kept the family (she has two younger brothers) on the move through a series of promotions. She was born in Los Angeles and moved to Hawaii as an infant where they lived until she was 15. They moved to Atlanta and then to New Castle County where she finished high school in Christiana and attended the University of Delaware.

Marriage and family called for an additional source of income, so Shannon began working in the shop of carver and waterfowl artist Bill Veasey, a Decoy Museum Director and Honorary Chairman of the 2009 Decoy Festival. Decoy making also provided the needed flexibility for balancing work and a young family. She had never considered herself an artist, but she found her calling in decoys and they have provided a good living for 32 years.

Shannon later began to work independently as a carver and waterfowl artist from the spacious shop behind her home in Elkton, Maryland. She has spent many years working both for and with Bill, taking lessons, making decoys, and learning teaching skills. She also names Jeff Moore, Johnny Day, and her "dear friend" Ernie Muehlmann as among others who have influenced her career in waterfowl art.

While she doesn't enjoy gunning, Shannon has turned out more than a few gunning decoys over the years, mostly as special favors for friends. Such is the high regard for Shannon in the community of decoy carvers and waterfowl artists that the carvers asked for her to be a judge at the 2014 and 2015 Decoy and Wildlife Art Festivals. We believe this is the first time that a woman judged a gunning decoy class!

But decorative carvings are what she loves and what define the trajectory of her life. In 2004, she won a

first-place prize at the Ward Museum's World Championship with the amazing Cormorant pictured here. This carving has now gone on to win 19 blue ribbons and 7 best-of-shows. But she says she doesn't make "ducks for ducks". Her ducks are made for people who both appreciate the inherent beauty of waterfowl and the artistry of rendering them in wood.

If one wants to attract ducks to ducks, one goes where the ducks are. Similarly, Shannon has in the past attended up to 22 decoy shows per year. Each show has its own personality in terms of what the peo-

This Cormorant by Shannon Dimmig won first-place prize at the Ward Museum's World Championship and later took 19 additional blue ribbon honors and 7 Best-of-Show awards.



Shannon's Oldsquaw hen won Best-of-Category in the Open Class at the Ward World Championship.



ple are interested in, and her production has been geared toward keeping her table filled with carvings that are appropriate for each show.

Times change, and people change. Economic conditions have tightened budgets. There are fewer shows, attendance has decreased, and there are more admirers than buyers. Shannon now attends only about seven shows per year and participates in even fewer competitions. She spends more time teaching or hosting workshops and classes for up-and-coming makers of counterfeit waterfowl. She enjoys teaching and gets more gratification from encouraging the competitive successes of her students.

Shannon credits Bill Veasey for helping her develop her teaching skills, and she says, "He knows how to start people

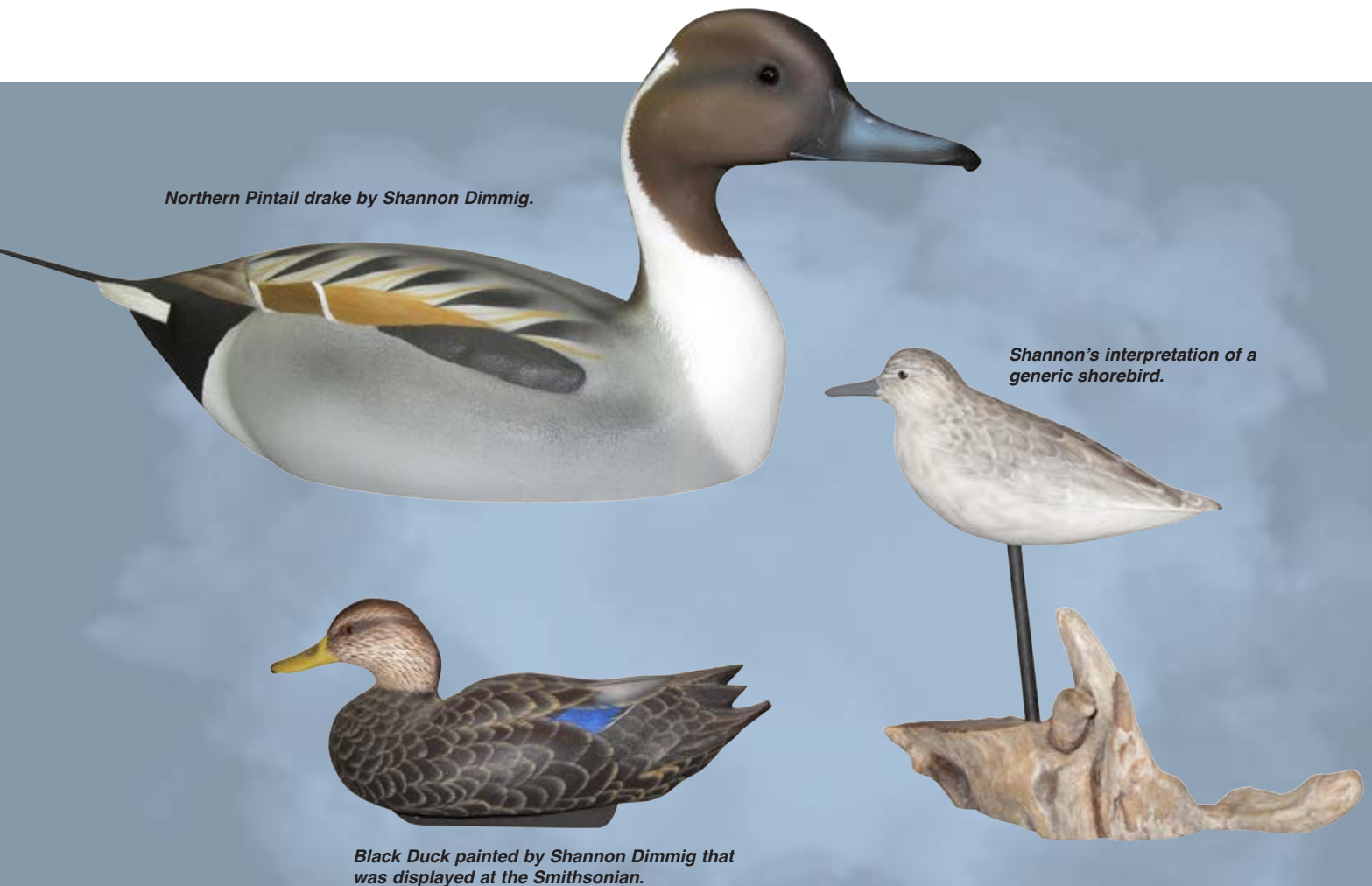
off." In turn, Shannon has taught Bill her airbrushing skills. Bill regards her as possibly the most talented airbrush artist among all the decoy makers. Shannon says that her students challenge her and there is much that she learns from them.

Her preferred woods are clear white pine and tupelo, but not just any tupelo will do. Her preferred tupelo is from the underwater portion of trees that have been harvested from swampy habitat, which has a better texture for carving. Basswood, from the linden tree, is a commonly used carving wood, but Shannon says it "fuzzes up" too much to make it useable for the feather veining and other fine detail she seeks in her work. Shannon says good wood is getting harder to find, a common refrain among carvers.

In terms of technique, Shannon rough shapes her bodies and then carves in the detail with a Foredom tool and a high-speed dental drill. Feather veins and other fine details are added with a wood burner. There is magic in both this sculpturing—the carving of the wood—and in the painting. Colors are applied with specialized brushes (\$150 for a red-sable brush!) as well as the airbrush.

The combination of carving and painting techniques results in an almost lifelike appearance. Asked for a favorite bird, she says definitely the Northern Pintail hen. Could one of her creations go in the water and be an effective decoy? Oh yes, but you could also hang a Monet in the garage.

Shannon expects to be carving, painting, and teaching until she "just can't do it anymore".



Northern Pintail drake by Shannon Dimmig.

Shannon's interpretation of a generic shorebird.

Black Duck painted by Shannon Dimmig that was displayed at the Smithsonian.

Daniel (left) and Jonathan Irons each display two of their favorite works: an American Kestrel that won third-place in the "Age 12-15 Decorative Class" at the Ward World Championship and a Squirrel Cuckoo.



Daniel and Jonathan Irons

Among the visitors to Shannon's shop have been Daniel and Jonathan Irons. We first met them as exhibitors at the 2014 Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival where they quietly and diligently demonstrated their skill at carving. What is most remarkable is that Daniel and Jonathan are only 14 and 12, respectively, but they have been carving ducks and other birds for half of their lives!

Daniel and Jonathan live with their sister Hannah and mom and dad Polly and Mike on a magical 18-acre farm near Queenstown, Maryland where the waters of the Chesapeake Bay form the western boundary of Big Water Farm. There are goats, sheep, chickens, horses, and 14 cats. The kids have their own garden plots and raise an assortment of crops for the table.

Polly and Mike homeschool their children and have supported and encouraged their aptitudes. The farm is a learning laboratory for good environmental stewardship. Mornings are devoted to chores around the farm, birdwatching, photog-

raphy, maybe some archery practice, and definitely carving. After lunch it is time for academic pursuits either at home or with a local co-op of other homeschooled children.



Both boys took an early interest in birdwatching. In fact, they are avid birders who are active with the Maryland Ornithological Society (Youth Division). Each already has about 350 bird species on his "life list", over 200 of which were spotted on their own property. The passion for birding also led to the passion for photography.

AT LEFT: Birders without borders. Jonathan (left) and Daniel Irons kitted out for some serious winter birdwatching and photography.

Boys are boys, and they also had an early fascination with tools. Carving was the obvious intersection of birding and tools, and Daniel had begun to work with wood by the age of six. He got a set of gouges for his seventh birthday and a set of carving knives for his eighth. Mike and Polly intended to do the same for Jonathan when he reached those milestones, but Jonathan was way ahead of them and had surreptitiously begun to carve with Daniel's tools. Their early efforts yielded some very interesting results, including ducks and songbirds carved in relief on flat boards.

They got their start in carving by joining the Kent Island Carvers Club. There, they met David Connolly from Centreville, Maryland who taught them the essential skills for carving and the intricacies of painting with oils. The boys have painted in both acrylics and oils, but they prefer oil-based paint, as most carvers do, because of its superior blending properties. Daniel started out carving mostly ducks

and songbirds, whereas Jonathan was drawn to songbirds and tropical birds with bright colors.

Both boys agree that they like ducks and other waterfowl, but right now they find the varied shapes and colors of the smaller birds more challenging and interesting. They point out that the physiology of birds and their feather groups are sufficiently similar that switching from one species to another is not difficult.

Their preferred woods are tupelo and cedar. Like Shannon Dimmig, they too find that basswood does not work well with the fine detail that they do. Daniel and Jonathan have drawn and cut out dozens of precise patterns for the birds they have made or intend to make. These patterns are sketched onto the wood, and then the wood chips start to fly!

Daniel and Jonathan both enjoy doing shows and demos, and they have taken top honors with various award-

winning masterpieces. In the Ward World Championship in Ocean City, Maryland last year, Daniel placed first with best-of-show in the "Age 12-15 Decorative Class" with his carving of a Tawny Frogmouth, an exotic bird from Australia that is featured on this year's Decoy Festival poster. He also placed third with his American Kestrel. This is the third year that Daniel has won the best-of-show at the World Championships. Jonathan placed second in the "Age 11 and Under Decorative Class" with his Turquoise-Browed Motmot, a tropical bird from Costa Rica. He also placed third with his American Kestrel, also featured on the poster. The previous year Jonathan was awarded a best-of-show with his Least Tern. They have also competed and demonstrated their skill at the Waterfowl Festival in Easton, Maryland and the Chesapeake Wildfowl Expo in Salisbury, Maryland.

Daniel and Jonathan came to the attention of Bill Veasey when the Ward Museum in Salisbury approached him about mentoring. Bill, in turn, introduced

Daniel's Least Tern poised on cleverly-created habitat. A Least Tern by Jonathan took a Best-of-Show at last year's Ward World Championship.



This Laughing Gull by Daniel Irons illustrates meticulous feathering.



These before-and-after King Eider heads show the painstaking feathering with a wood burner and the lifelike final result with impressively blended oil painting.

the boys to falconer and master carver Al Jordan from Rochester, New York. Other key influencers have been Ontario carver Pat Godin, and Keith Mueller from Connecticut.

Mentors have exposed Daniel and Jonathan to new skills and technology that they are incorporating in their work. They are using a wood burner to add fine details and veining on feathers. Master carver Tom Horn of Emmaus, Pennsylvania taught them to create realistic-looking habitat on which to pose their carvings by using an oxygen/propane jeweler's welding torch to make branches out of brass tubing and leaves out of brass and copper foil. Putty is applied to the tubing to simulate bark or moss, and it is all brightly painted. The results are stunning.

With the Chesapeake at the doorstep of Big Water Farm, Daniel and Jonathan love being on

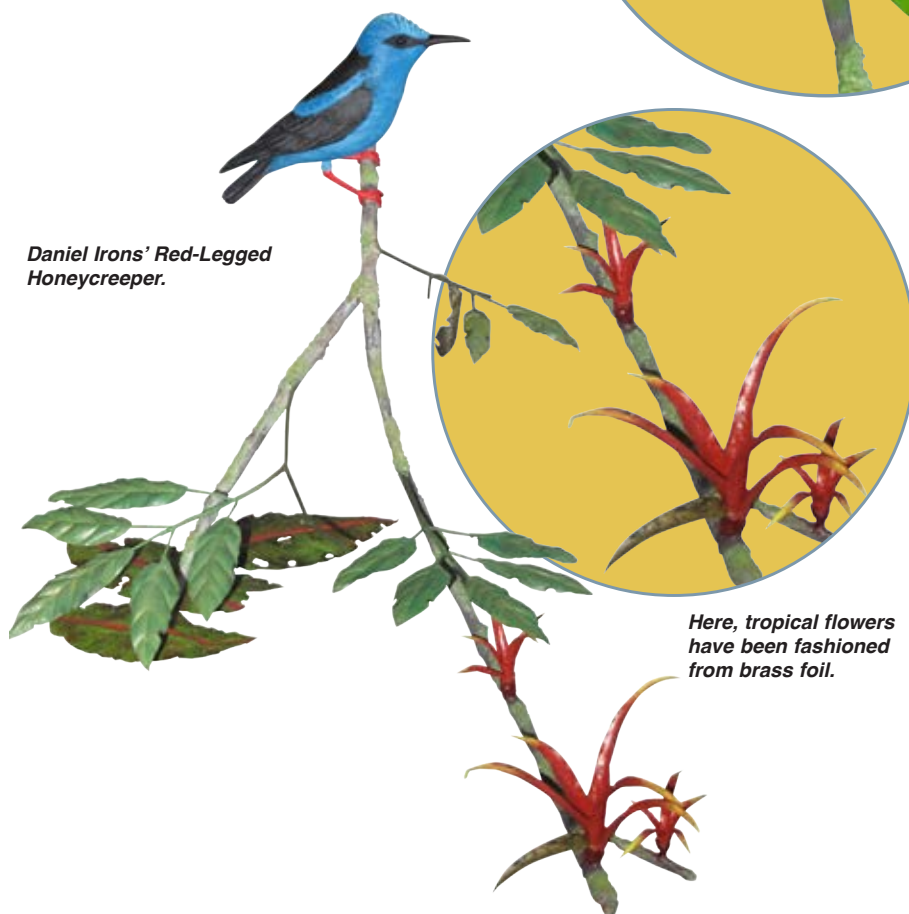


Squirrel Cuckoo by Jonathan Irons

Jonathan's Turquoise-Browed Motmot took second place in the "Age 11 and Under Decorative Class" at the Ward World Championship.



Detailed and lifelike foliage has been fabricated from brass tubing, brass wire, and brass foil.



Daniel Irons' Red-Legged Honeycreeper.

Here, tropical flowers have been fashioned from brass foil.

the water and are great fans of boating and the non-avian bounty of the Bay—fishing, crabbing, and even hand tonging for oysters. Their creativity is not confined to birds but has also found an outlet in carving and painting elaborate and effective fishing lures.

It is inspiring to see their work—a new generation of carvers mentored by masters with an instinct to create. Asked where they think carving will lead them draws quizzical looks at first, but refining the question—a hobby?—yields an immediate and reflexive answer from both: "Not a hobby. No, definitely not a hobby."

Whatever the future may hold for them, Daniel and Jonathan believe that "counterfeit birds" will be central to their lives. Daniel at 14 is already dreaming of Cornell University's renowned ornithology program.

Shannon Dimmig spoke admiringly of Daniel and Jonathan Irons: "When I look at them, I see the future of carving. And the future never looked brighter!"

Agreed. ■

HONORARY CHAIRMEN



2007

Joseph Coudon of H

Perryville, Maryland

1860–1947



Joseph Coudon was a gentleman farmer and truly a renaissance man. He started carving birds and making decoys when he was still in his teens and created some of America's finest waterfowl art. Coudon's solid-body decoys—primarily canvasbacks—were typical of Cecil County style with flat bottoms and squat, undersized, compact bodies that slope gently downward into a broad tail. He made about 300–500 per year. Coudon is also widely accepted as the originator of the Chesapeake Bay-style folding silhouette decoy. They are wonderfully folksy and a joy to behold.



2008

Bryon Bodt

Churchville, Maryland

Born 1963

Bryon Bodt began carving decoys as a teenager in 1977 and spent three years in the early 1980s as an apprentice to Havre de Grace decoy maker Jim Pierce. Bryon's present style is also patterned after R. Madison Mitchell, Paul Gibson, Charlie Bryan, and Bob McGaw. He and his father, Bernie, produce over 20 species of ducks, as well as geese, heron, and swans. Bryon is featured in the book "Upper Chesapeake Bay Decoys and Their Makers" and has displayed his decoys at many shows and festivals. His decoys have been selected as part of the Maryland Ducks Unlimited state art package several times.



2009

Bill Veasey

Elkton, Maryland

Born 1932

Bill Veasey got his start when his brother-in-law, an accomplished artist in his own right, insisted Bill meet the late Pennsylvania carver, Harry Waite. Bill works with students and teaches them the basics of carving a traditional hunting decoy. He has written and published fourteen books about carving and painting, and he has helped other authors get over two hundred additional books published. Exhibiting his unique working and decorative decoys is one of Bill's joys. He says, "The important thing is that we preserve this legacy." Bill currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Decoy Museum.



2010

Dave Walker

Havre de Grace, Maryland

Born 1958

Dave Walker began carving at fourteen. He would ride his bike to Jim Pierce's shop where he did the "dirty work" and learned from the bottom up. Dave also worked at the shop of R. Madison Mitchell and knew all the carvers who came through the doors to work or to talk and share. Dave says that each of the carvers "was a mentor in his own way." Charlie Joiner took Dave under his wing and showed him how to transition from

Past HONORARY CHAIRMEN

working decoys to decorative decoys. He learned many secrets from Joiner who, in turn, had learned from the Ward Brothers. Dave is a past Director of the Decoy Museum.



2011

Thomas Humberstone

Skaneateles, New York

Born 1946

Tom Humberstone is from an area that is home to many migrating waterfowl. Tom started hunting in 1965 and became an avid waterfowler, collector, and carver. He carves in the style of the St. Lawrence River carvers and has produced many different species since 1975, preferring black ducks and canvasbacks. He was inducted into the NY State Outdoorsman Hall of Fame in 1995 and was honored by NY State Ducks Unlimited as Conservationist of the Year, 2010. He and his wife Betsy are great supporters of the Decoy Museum, the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust, and the Decoy Festivals.



2012

Rob Leslie

Turnersville, New Jersey

Born 1947

Rob Leslie's passion for painting wildlife began in his native Wisconsin as a young boy growing up in a family of duck hunters. He began entering competitions in 1985 and won the Delaware Duck Stamp in 1986. Rob now has about 20 state duck stamps in his portfolio, including four for New Jersey and the first-ever stamp for Idaho. He likes to paint everything related to waterfowl. He says, "I think it is important to paint what you love to paint, not create art to cater to the market." He considers "the Havre de Grace Decoy Show a perfect match for me." We share the feeling!



Allen J. Fair

Havre de Grace, Maryland

Born 1934

Allen Fair is a prominent Havre de Grace entrepreneur who has been collecting for nearly 40 years. He says that you should collect what you like—what strikes your fancy. He has been a key supporter of the Decoy Museum since the earliest days and has been a driving force behind its healthy growth. Allen has served on

the Museum Board in several positions, including president. He is dedicated to making Havre de Grace a great place to live, work, and play. Allen has helped to rekindle the pride of residents and to make the city a destination for visitors—The Decoy Capital of the World.



2013

John Meredith

Worton, Maryland

Born 1946

John Meredith is an Eastern Shoreman who has been both carving decoys and guiding hunters for over 50 years. He carved his first decoys when he was twelve. "Carving decoys has always been a part of me," says John. His flat-bottomed style is typical of Eastern Shore carvers, and he names the Ward brothers and Charlie Joiner as key influences. All of his decoys are hand chopped, and he is producing about 400 decoys annually.

He also carves miniature decoys. John 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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

From the Desk of...

Spring has finally arrived and we are in full swing Festival planning here at the Museum, hoping to make this a memorable year for young and old alike! Just a brief note to share a few announcements -

We are proud to again partner with the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families in serving as a Blue Star Museum in 2016. We will join more than 2,000 museums nationwide who offer free admission to active duty military personnel and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day.



Please visit us to see our newest addition to the "Gunning the Flats" gallery - a beautiful painting of a bushwhack hunt, generously donated to the Museum by artist Dennis Clevenger.

Missing our spectacular view across the Susquehanna Flats and Chesapeake Bay? We are honored to host the City of Havre de Grace's Decoy Cam, which broadcasts live from our second story deck - <http://www.explorehavredegrace.com/live/>. Check it out!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Decoy and Wildlife Life Art Festival May 6th, 7th and 8th!

Kerri

Kerri S. Kneisley
Executive Director

Current Exhibits @ The Museum

- Potomac Decoy Collector's Association Bufflehead Exhibit.



- The new displays of both full-size and miniature Canada geese from the collection of C. John Sullivan, Jr.

- The extraordinary pair of "Daddy" Holly canvasbacks, a gift from the Michael family.

- A traditional tule decoy in the centuries-old "Lovelock style" by Paiute decoy maker Joe Allen.



- "Tools of the Market Gunner" exhibit featuring a number of punt and battery guns

- The "Gunning the Flats" exhibit

- The "What is a Decoy?" exhibit

- An exhibit of factory decoys, a gift from Dr. Mort Kramer



- "Pop" Sampson's homemade duplicating lathe for making miniature decoy bodies

- Coudon Teal carved in the 1930s, a gift from Pat Doherty.

- A beautiful decorative Eastern Blue Bird carved by master carver Barb Wachter

- A beautiful decorative canvasback family made by master carver J. Noble Mentzer

- A lifelike rockfish (striped bass) carved by master carver Lee Tate, Sr.

- The Home Run Baker rig and bushwhack boat.



Tour Reservations

Educational programs and tours of the Decoy Museum are free to Harford County school system classes, and we also welcome your home schooled children! Tours can be tailored to the curriculum and different age/grade levels.

Book your tours early, call Margaret Jones at (410) 939-3739 or email the Museum at information@decoymuseum.com.

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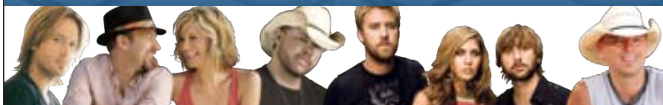
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Mark Your Calendar: Annual Sporting Clays Classic

Join us Saturday, June 25th, for the Decoy Museum's Annual Sporting Clays Classic to be held at Pintail Point in Queenstown, Maryland. The event will be governed by NSCA Rules and the Lewis Class System will be used.

Downsizing? Changing Your Collection?

If you have decoys, wildlife art, and waterfowling memorabilia packed away in closets, attics, garages, and basements that you just do not know what to do with — please consider donating these items to the Museum.

The Decoy Museum can turn your unwanted items into much-needed operating revenue. In-kind gifts will be gratefully received by the Museum and will help preserve history for generations to come.

Call us at 410-939-3739. We will be happy to make any necessary arrangements.

*We're
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for your next
Event.*



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

HONORARY CHAIRMEN



2014

Bob Jobes

Havre de Grace, Maryland

Born 1959

Bob Jobes is the quintessential Havre de Grace waterman and decoy carver. His shop is behind his family's home where his great-grandparents and grandparents once lived. As a kid, Bob helped his father, Capt. Harry, in R. Madison Mitchell's shop with other renowned carvers. He learned the beauty of ducks and geese from hunting, and decoy making challenged him to create that beauty in wood. Bob worked in his father's shop and then began working fulltime for Mr. Mitchell after finishing high school. However, decoy collecting has peaked and moved more upmarket, so in recent years Bob has shifted his focus to miniature decoys.



2015

Joe Engers

Lewes, Delaware

Born 1953

Joe Engers has been the owner and publisher of Decoy Magazine since his first issue in the autumn of 1979. Also a passionate collector, Joe is well known and highly regarded for his enormous contributions to the decoy world through this bi-monthly magazine, book publishing, active participation in the dozens of shows held coast to coast each year, and his strong support for clubs and institutions that celebrate the art of the decoy. Decoy Magazine is the sine qua non among serious decoy collectors worldwide and provides exclusive information on

decoys and makers from the golden age of waterfowling all the way through to contemporary carvers. His comprehensive coverage of decoy auctions, shows, and other waterfowling events has for years taken the reader into the heart of the decoy market. ■



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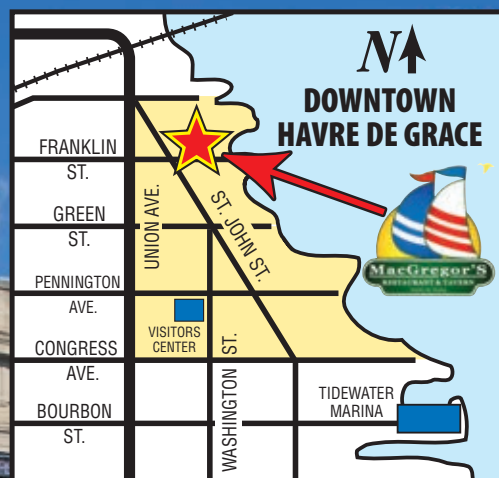
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