

# The Canvasback

HAVRE DE GRACE DECoy MUSEUM

Summer 2016  
Vol. 26 No. 3

\$3.00

John Collier,  
Bill Gibian, the Elusive  
**Lem Ward**  
**Eagle** & *Other*  
*Amazing Creations*





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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.

## ON THE COVER

The cover of this issue of **The Canvasback** shows a spectacular Bald Eagle. The only one ever carved by Lem Ward, it was incomplete at the time of his death in 1984. Astute collector John Collier acquired the unfinished Eagle in recent years, and Bill Gibian completed it for him. It is a breathtaking work of art and a tribute to the artistic talents of two great men and to John's passion for the art.



FUNDED IN PART BY

**Harford County • City of Havre de Grace  
Maryland State Arts Council**

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.

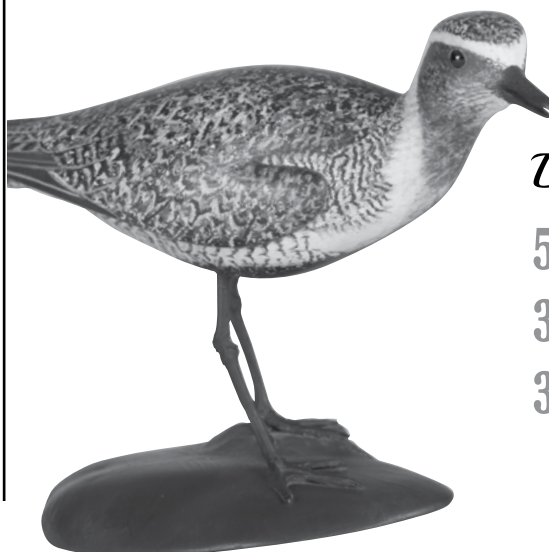
The Museum was incorporated in 1981 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which exists to document and interpret waterfowl decoys as this art form applies to the social and economic life of the upper Chesapeake Bay region. Contributions made to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Tax may be deductible.



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## From the President...

Dear Museum Member:

The 35th annual Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival was another success. This year, the first full weekend in May was also Mother's Day! But that was factored into expectations and nobody was complaining.

People probably stayed home on Sunday to pamper Mom. But dreary weather on Friday and Saturday brought out additional people who couldn't work in the yard and were looking for something fun to do inside. And we had fun!

Many generous sponsors, devoted staff, and volunteers put in long hours and great effort. Mayor Bill Martin and the Havre de Grace City Council are always 100% behind us. Dan and Cindy Lee at MacGregor's Restaurant laid out great spreads for the Friday night exhibitor reception and the Sunday breakfast buffet. A big "Thank you!" for everything that every single person did.

Our Festival is one of the best in the region because it is consistent and traditional – keeping the focus on Upper Chesapeake Bay decoys, both old and new. This year's Festival honorees were Elkton, Md. carver Shannon Dimmig and Queenstown, Md. brothers Daniel and Jonathan Irons. Shannon has been carving for over three decades and is renowned as both a carver and a mentor. Daniel and Jonathan are only 14 and 12, respectively, but these top-award winners have been carving since they were six-years old. We were proud to honor three very talented artists – mentor and mentee alike – who are shaping the future of this unique folk art.

The Old Decoy Contest attracted some real treasures. These pages include Jim Trimble's recaps of the contest and the Festival, along with Terri Shepke-Heppner's usual great photos. John Collier has graciously loaned us a breathtaking collection of Bill Gibian's carvings. Do not miss this fabulous new display in the Carver's Gallery. We are again proudly participating as a Blue Star Museum, offering free admission this summer to active duty military personnel and their families. God bless our troops and their loved ones!

Harford County has approved our grant request for FY 2017, and we are awaiting word from the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway on another application. County Executive Barry Glassman and Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti are very supportive of the mission of the Museum, and we thank them for their loyalty.

We thank ALL of our supporters who are working every single day to improve the Decoy Museum and keep it growing!

Sincerely,

Pat Vincenti



# Spring Raffle Results

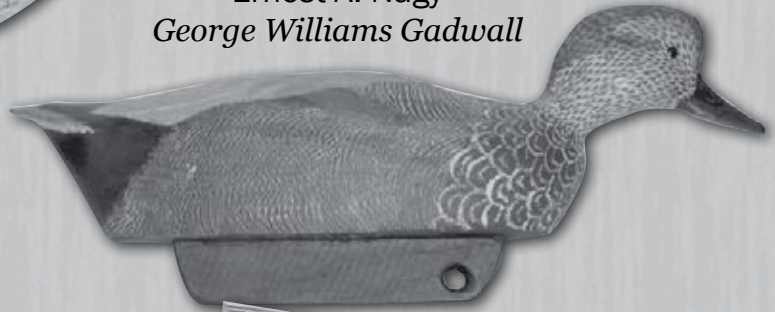


*First*

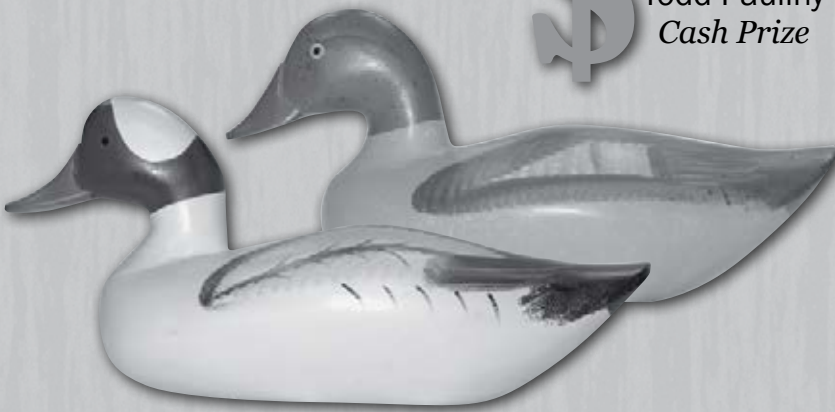
Louis Friedman

*R Madison Mitchell Blue-winged Teal (Pair)*

*Fourth*  
Ernest A. Nagy  
*George Williams Gadwall*



*Second*  
Todd Pauliny  
*Cash Prize*



*Third*

Keith Poffenberger

*Jim Pierce Bufflehead (Pair)*



*Fifth*

Bob Kohn

*Print of Mitchell Shop by Paul Shertz*

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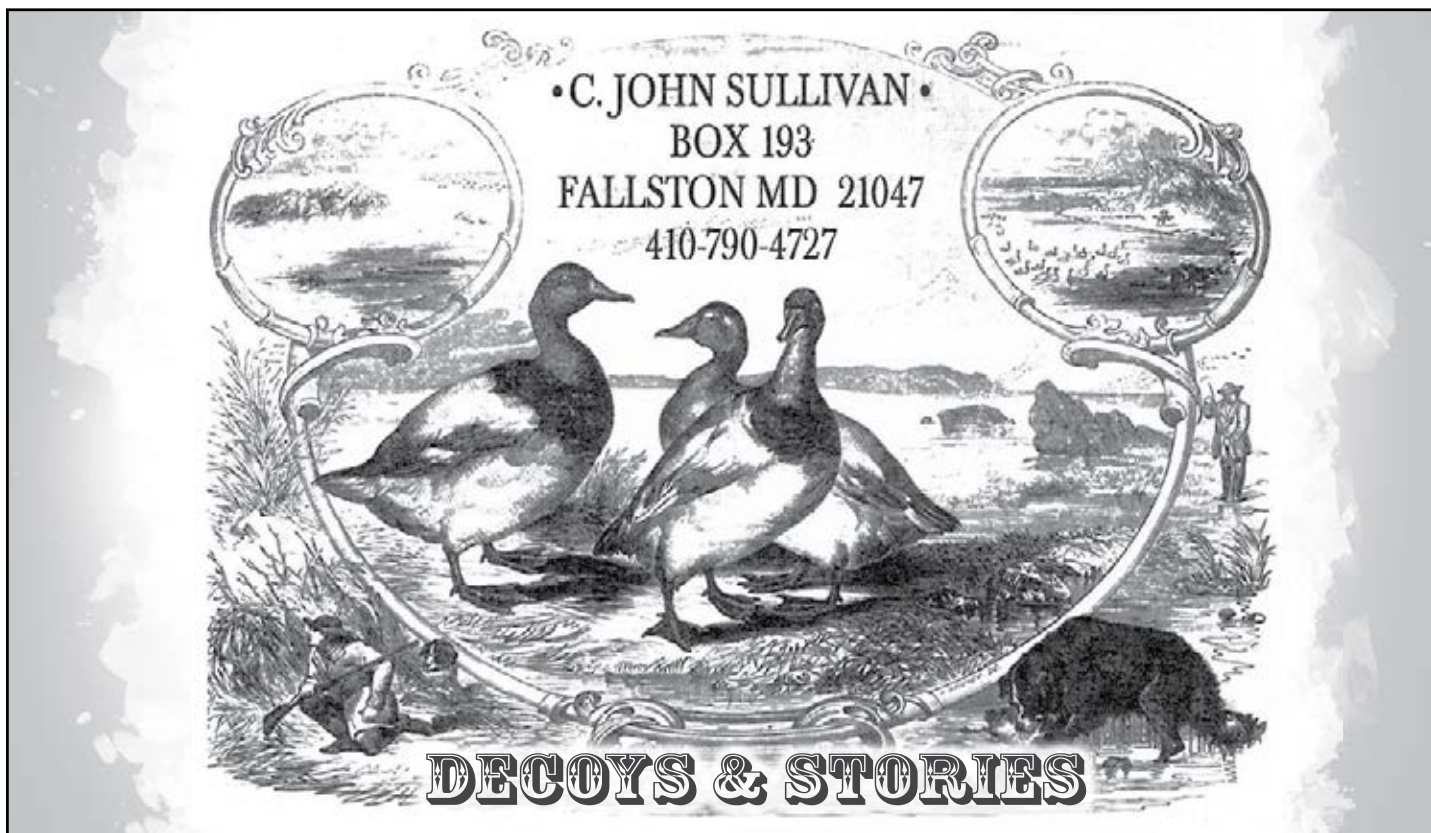
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# Thank You!

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### DIVER

#### *Bufflehead*

**1st** James Kimble

#### *Ring-necked Duck*

**1st** Lee Devine

**2nd** Lee Devine

#### *Scaup/Bluebill*

**1st** George G. Levi

**2nd** George G. Levi

### BEST OF DIVER

**1st** James Kimble

*Bufflehead*

**2nd** Lee Devine

*Ring-necked Duck*

**3rd** George G. Levi

*Scaup/Bluebill*

### MARSH

#### *Mallard*

**1st** George G. Levi

### BEST OF MARSH

**1st** George G. Levi

*Mallard*

### GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

#### *Brant*

**1st** George G. Levi

### BEST OF GOOSE

### & CONFIDENCE

**1st** George G. Levi

*Brant*

### BEST OF SHOW

**1st** James Kimble

*Bufflehead*

**2nd** Lee Devine

*Ring-necked Duck*

**3rd** George G. Levi

*Mallard*

## Decorative Life-Size Floating- Intermediate

### DIVER

#### *Bufflehead*

**1st** George F. Buchness

#### *Goldeneye*

**1st** Dan Guilbault

#### *Red-breasted Merganser*

**1st** Justin Yinger

#### *Redhead*

**1st** George F. Buchness

### BEST OF DIVER

**1st** Dan Guilbault

*Goldeneye*

**2nd** Justin Yinger

*Red-breasted*

*Merganser*

**3rd** George F. Buchness

*Redhead*

### MARSH

#### *Mallard*

**1st** George F. Buchness

#### *Wood Duck*

**1st** Justin Yinger

### BEST OF MARSH

**1st** Justin Yinger

*Wood Duck*

**2nd** George F. Buchness

*Mallard*



### GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

*Grebe*

**1st** Maxine Brown

### BEST OF GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

**1st** Maxine Brown

### BEST IN SHOW

**1st** Justin Yinger  
*Wood Duck*

**2nd** Dan Guilbault  
*Goldeneye*

**3rd** Maxine Brown  
*Grebe*

### Decorative Life-Size Floating-Open

### DIVER

*Hooded Merganser*

**1st** Dwinton Morgan

*Common Merganser*

**1st** Jay Polite

*Scaup/Bluebill*

**1st** Warren B. Brown

### BEST OF DIVER

**1st** Jay Polite  
*Common Merganser*

**2nd** Dwinton Morgan  
*Hooded Merganser*

**3rd** Warren B. Brown  
*Scaup/Bluebill*

### MARSH

*Mallard*

**1st** Dwinton Morgan

**2nd** Steve Reiner

*Blue-winged Teal*

**1st** F. J. Valentino

**2nd** Dwinton Morgan

### BEST OF MARSH

**1st** F. J. Valentino  
*Blue-winged Teal*

**2nd** Dwinton Morgan  
*Blue-winged Teal*

**3rd** Dwinton Morgan  
*Mallard*

### BEST IN SHOW

**1st** Jay Polite  
*Common Merganser*

**2nd** Dwinton Morgan  
*Hooded Merganser*

**3rd** F. J. Valentino  
*Blue-winged Teal*

### Decorative Life-Size Non-Floating-Open

### WATERFOWL

*Blue-winged Teal*

**1st** Warren B. Brown

### BIRDS OF PREY

**1st** James Ralph Nester  
*Bald Eagle*

**2nd** Charles F. McClaskey  
*Great Horned Owl*

### SONG BIRDS

**1st** Jack Bowman  
*Marsh Wren*

**2nd** Dwinton Morgan  
*Hummingbird*

**3rd** Frank Dagostin  
*Cardinal*

### BEST OF SHOW

**1st** Jack Bowman  
*Marsh Wren*

**2nd** James Ralph Nester  
*Bald Eagle*

**3rd** Charles McClaskey  
*Great Horned Owl*

### Decorative Life-Size Non-Floating-Intermediate

### SHOREBIRDS

**1st** Don Guilbault  
*Semipalmated Plover*

### BIRDS OF PREY

**1st** Carl Tosi  
*Osprey*

### SONGBIRDS

**1st** Maxine Brown  
*Tufted Titmouse*

**2nd** Henry Jacobs  
*Blue Jay*

**3rd** Sam Grasso  
*Baltimore Oriole*

### SEABIRDS

**1st** Hazel Goodwin  
*Baby Penguin*

**2nd** Karen Haitman  
*Albatross*





### BEST OF SHOW

- 1st** Carl Tosi  
*Osprey*
- 2nd** Maxine Brown  
*Tufted Titmouse*
- 3rd** Don Guilbault  
*Semiplamated Plover*

### Decorative Life-size Non-Floating- Novice

### WATERFOWL

- 1st** Robert Scott  
*Green-winged teal*

### UPLAND GAME BIRD

- 1st** Ron Blevins  
*Woodcock*

### SHOREBIRDS

- 1st** Timothy G. Dawson  
*Great Blue Heron*

### BIRDS OF PREY

- 1st** Nelson Bengel  
*Kestrel*

### SONGBIRDS

- 1st** Marianne Stoecker  
*Cedar Waxwing*
- 2nd** Joseph A. Mascherino  
*Cedar Waxwing*
- 3rd** David Farrow  
*King Fisher*
- HM** Joseph A. Mascherino  
*Chickadee*
- HM** Nelson Bengel  
*Red-bellied Woodpecker*

### SEABIRDS

- 1st** Ken Guelta  
*King Penguin*

### WATERFOWL FLAT BOTTOM

- 1st** Lee Devine  
*Scaup/Bluebill*
- 2nd** Dan Dubay  
*Northern Shoveler*
- 3rd** Robert Scott  
*Northern Pintail*

### BEST OF SHOW

- 1st** Marianne Stoecker  
*Cedar Waxwing*

- 2nd** Nelson Bengel  
*Kestrel*
- 3rd** Ron Blevins  
*Woodcock*

### Miniature- Open

### WATERFOWL

- 1st** Maxine Brown  
*Grebe*

### SHOREBIRDS

- 1st** Ronald Felker  
*Marbled Godwit*
- 2nd** Ronald Felker  
*American Avocet*
- 3rd** Joseph A. Mascherino  
*Great Blue Heron*

### UPLAND GAME BIRDS

- 1st** Ronald Felker  
*Turkey*

### BIRD OF PREY

- 1st** Frank Dagostin  
*Barn Owl*
- 2nd** Ronald Felker  
*Red-tailed Hawk*
- 3rd** Frank Dagostin  
*Barred Owl*

### SEABIRDS

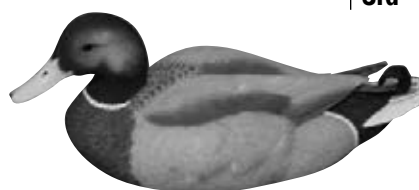
- 1st** Jack Bowman  
*Swallow-tailed Kite*

### COCKTAILS

- 1st** Daniel Lozano  
*Redhead*
- 2nd** Heck Rice  
*Coot*
- 3rd** Ronald Felker  
*Canada Goose*

### BEST OF SHOW

- 1st** Jack Bowman  
*Swallow-tailed Kite*
- 2nd** Frank Dagostin  
*Barn Owl*
- 3rd** Ronald Felker  
*Marbled Godwit*



*Continued on  
Page 30*

# 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.

*You may be able you to take a tax deduction for the charitable donation. IRS regulations prohibit us from appraising donated items.*

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35th ANNUAL HAVRE DE GRACE

# Decoy & Wildlife

## ART FESTIVAL 2016





*Long-time exhibitor and former Duck Fair Chairman Mike Smyser from Mt. Wold, Pa. always demonstrates his prowess making cork bodies with a drawknife*

**The three-day annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival, now in its 35th year, was held the weekend of May 6-8 in the small historic waterfront community of Havre de Grace, Maryland. Begun in 1982, the Festival is the key annual fundraiser for the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.**

This year's Honorary Chairs were shared by highly regarded contemporary carver Shannon Dimmig of Elkton, Maryland, along with the young talented carving brothers Daniel and Jonathan Irons, ages 14 and 12 respectively, of Queenstown, Maryland. These young carvers have been carving ducks and other sea birds half of their lives, and can often be seen at local waterfowl shows demonstrating their carving techniques, as they did at this Festival.

Mother's Day weekend as well as heavy monsoon-like rains Friday, and intermittent rains Saturday, impacted vendor participation and Festival attendance. The bad weather virtually shut down the monthly "First Friday" celebrations in this community's small commercial downtown area. But the Museum's loyal vendors and other supporters are an intrepid lot, and the 2016 Festival was a success for vendors and visitors alike. The Decoy Museum's Festival issue of The Canvasback magazine, mailed in a timely



manner preceding the Festival, served as a roadmap for the various duck activities, times and venues.

An afterhours Friday evening exhibitor appreciation reception with light fare is held each year at the Museum's second-floor Carvers' Gallery. This year's reception also included the exhibit opening from John Collier's collection of Bill Gibian's fine bird carvings. The display included 24 finely carved and painted decorative birds, mostly waterfowl, that included wading birds, shorebirds, ducks and geese along with a few exotic birds. Among them is a stunning life-size Bald Eagle begun by Lem Ward and completed by Bill after Ward's death in 1984. Gibian, from Onancock, on Virginia's Eastern Shore, is well known to both the contemporary and the vintage decoy collector.

Carvers, demonstrations, and vendor events were held in three locations with most of the competitions and exhibitions held Saturday. Carvers were able to enter individual birds, some as floaters, for ribbon prizes in eight different carving competition categories. Gunning rig competitions were held in the tidal waters in front of the Museum, with the participants, in deep waders, setting their birds, again for competition ribbons. This is a fun event to watch as the live birds that abound are drawn into the rigs. There were also goose and duck calling competitions held Saturday as well as retriever dog demonstrations.



*Exhibitor John Collier (left) and Decoy Museum President Pat Vincenti discussing the new exhibit of Bill Gibian's magical creations from John's collection that he and Bill opened that weekend.*





*Exhibitor Linda Amtmann from Baltimore can take an old oar, a crab basket, a piece of driftwood, or other castoffs and turn them into treasures of regional art.*



*Shannon Dimmig's amazing Cormorant has won over two-dozen blue ribbons and "best in shows".*

The Middle School contains the old decoy vendors along with a sprinkling of contemporary carver/vendors. However, the old decoys are the draw for the many vintage duck collectors who filled the aisles Friday evening and Saturday, looking for another old decoy to take home with them. From this writer's observation, there were many with purchased decoys under their arms. Show vendors report that Sunday's commerce was slow to non-existent. The Middle School was also the venue for the annual Old Decoy Contest.

Festival vendors reported that Sunday's commerce was slow to non-existent. This year was unusual in that the second Sunday of May (Mother's Day) was on the first full weekend of May (Decoy Festival). After two weeks of almost solid rain, Sunday dawned bright and clear, but the Sunday paper predicted another week of rain ahead. Consequently, we imagine that many families gave the special gift of staying home to work on Mom's outdoor "to-do" list.

Jim & Clo Trimble worked again this year as festival volunteers, taking responsibility and accepting decoys for the 10-category J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest. Steve Dudley and Rod Benjamin worked as "duck handlers."

Decoy judge selection is on a yearly rotation basis with collectors John Sullivan, Chad Tragakis and Will Freng selected to serve. This writer serves as pinch-hitter, if and when one of the judges recuse because of possible conflict over a category entry. Twenty-four



contestants entered over 80 competition birds with nine separate entrants winning in this ten-category vintage competition event. The number of contestants and number of entry birds were down this year, reflecting the Mother's Day/Decoy Festival overlap.

Maryland collector John Sullivan won the Best Cecil County Black Duck category with a fine hollow Ben Dye Black Duck in mellow old gunning paint, circa 1880/90s. This fine bird also won 3rd Best-in-Show honors. The Best Harford County Black Duck category was won with a fine original paint bird by Jim Holly, circa 1885 from the Boyd rig; owned by Delaware collector Lloyd Sheats. This bird also won 2nd Best-in-Show honors. Sheats struck again when his fine original paint pair of Jim Holly Bluebills won the Best Holly Family Diving Duck category.

Another Delaware collector, S.R. Smith, won the Dye Family Diving Duck category with a Civil War era Ben Dye Redhead in mellow old gunning paint. The Best Graham Family Diving Duck category was won by Pennsylvania collector Jeremy Houser with a high-head John Graham Canvasback hen with fine old paint and with a P.K. BARNES brand.

Maryland collector Mort Kramer won the Jobes Family Canvasback category with a circa 1950s original paint Canvasback hen made by family patriarch Capt. Harry Jobes. A fine original paint August Heinifield Canvasback, circa 1940/50s, won the Best Queen



*Two decoys taking shape in the hands of young brothers Daniel (above) and Jonathan Irons.*





*Event organizer Matt Kneisley (left), assisted by Todd Bergman, sets up for his greatly expanded judging of river gunning decoys (both flat and round bottoms) that was a great success.*



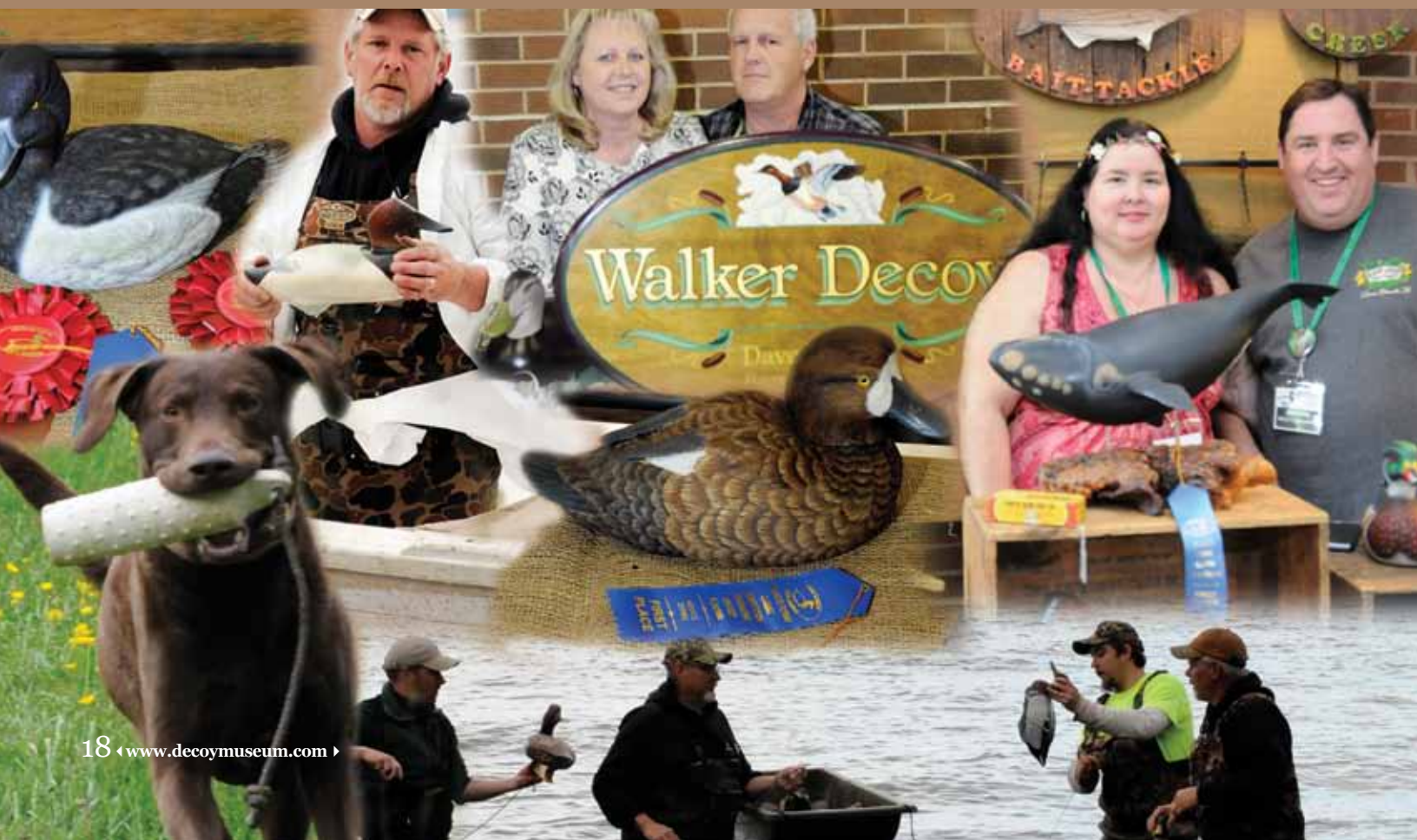
*Hamilton Sullivan beams as he helps his grandfather "Big" (aka C. John Sullivan, Jr.) at his exhibit of rare old decoys and an assortment of John's fascinating historical books.*

Anne/Kent County Canvasback category for New Jersey collector Richard Petti.

The Best Crisfield Black Duck category was something to behold with the numerous Ward Bros original paint Black Ducks that filled the table; the grouping of birds could have been dabbling for corn. A well-worn original paint fat-bodied bird with turned head won this category for Maryland Collector Rob Benjamin. Benjamin's bird also won Best-in-Show honors. Maryland collector Don Kirson won the Virginia Shorebird category with a fine original paint Yellowlegs by Ira Hudson.

Pennsylvania collector Richard Daggett arrived carrying a duffle bag full of birds and had to be encouraged to enter his fine set of Canadian-made Goldeneye decoys in the Unknown category.... and with blue ribbon in hand, you know the rest of the story. The winning birds with their ribbons will be displayed at the Museum for the next several months, so please make the time to visit the Carvers Gallery to see these beautiful and historic creations.

This duck-packed weekend, courtesy of the sponsors, staff, and volunteers of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, is always a fun weekend for like-minded duck enthusiasts. It is truly a celebration of the history, heritage, and cultural landscape of the Upper Chesapeake Bay. We have already marked our calendar for the 2017 Festival that will be held, as always, on the first full weekend of May – the 5th, 6th, and 7th.



# Evans McKinney Contest

Twenty-four contestants entered over 80 competition birds with nine separate entrants winning in this ten-category vintage competition event. There were fewer contestants and birds than last year, reflecting the Mother's Day/Decoy Festival overlap.

- ◆ The Best Crisfield Black Duck category was something to behold with the numerous Ward brothers original paint Black Ducks that filled the table. The grouping of birds could have been dabbling for corn. A well-worn original paint fat-bodied bird with turned head won this category for Maryland Collector Rob Benjamin. Benjamin's bird also won Best-in-Show honors.
- ◆ The Best Harford County Black Duck category was won with a fine original paint bird by Jim Holly, circa 1885 from the Boyd rig; owned by Delaware collector Lloyd Sheats. This bird also won 2nd Best-in-Show honors.
- ◆ Maryland collector John Sullivan won the Best Cecil County Black Duck category with a fine hollow Ben Dye Black Duck in mellow old gunning paint, circa 1880/90s. This fine bird also won 3rd Best-in-Show honors.
- ◆ Pennsylvania collector Richard Daggett arrived carrying a duffle bag full of birds and had to be encouraged to enter his fine set of Canadian made Goldeneye decoys in the Unknown category, and with blue ribbon in hand, you know the rest of the story.
- ◆ The Best Graham Family Diving Duck category was won by Pennsylvania collector Jeremy Houser with a high-head John Graham Canvasback hen with fine old paint and with a P.K. BARNES brand.
- ◆ Maryland collector Don Kirson won the Virginia Shorebird category with a fine original-paint Yellowlegs by Ira Hudson.
- ◆ Maryland collector Mort Kramer won the Jobes Family Canvasback category with a circa 1950s original paint Canvasback hen made by family patriarch Capt. Harry Jobes.
- ◆ A fine original paint August Heinifield Canvasback, circa 1940/50s, won the Best Queen Anne/Kent County Canvasback category for New Jersey collector Richard Petti.
- ◆ Sheats struck again when his fine original paint pair of Jim Holly Bluebills won the Best Holly Family Diving Duck category.
- ◆ Another Delaware collector, S.R. Smith, won the Dye Family Diving Duck category with a Civil War era Ben Dye Redhead in mellow old gunning paint. The winning birds with their ribbons are currently on display at the Museum where they will remain through at least the middle of the summer. Come see these fine pieces of folk art!



*Pennsylvania collector Jeremy Houser with his branded high head John Graham canvasback hen that won Best Graham Family category in the J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest.*

## J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest 2016 Competition at a Glance

Owner	Place	Category	Decoy Entered
Rod Benjamin	Best in Show	Best Crisfield Black Duck	Ward Bros.
Lloyd Sheats	2nd Place	Best Harford County Black Duck	Jim Holly
C. John Sullivan, Jr.	3rd Place	Best Cecil County Black Duck	Ben Dye
Richard Daggett		Best Unknown	Goldeneye Pair – Canadian
Jeremy Houser		Best Graham Family Diving Duck	High Head Canvasback Hen
Don Kirson		Best Virginia Shorebird	Ira Hudson Yellowlegs
Mort Kramer		Best Jobes Family Canvasback	Capt. Harry Canvasback Hen
Richard Petti		Best Queen Anne/Kent Co Canvasback	August Heinifield Canvasback Drake
Lloyd Sheats		Best Holly Family Diving Duck	Jim Holly Bluebill Pair
S.R. Smith		Best Dye Family Diving Duck	Ben Dye Redhead

# 19th Annual East Coast Decoy Collectors Swap Meet:

April 8th & 9th, 2016 - St. Michaels, Maryland

*By Jim Trimble*

Most vendors arrived and opened by mid-afternoon Thursday for the buy-sell-swap held Friday & Saturday, April 8th & 9th, at the St. Michaels Motor Inn in St. Michaels, Maryland. Thursday's heavy rain gave way to Friday's sunshine, with a rough mixture front of high winds, cold, rain and snow showers Saturday that impacted day-hop visitors. There were fifty or so rooms chockfull of old decoys and gunning artifacts; as well as 17 or so tailgaters, again with decoys and waterfowling artifacts. Reservation issues, due to the motel dropping their Best Western reservation system, impacted and dampened the enthusiasm of a few.

Vendors were primarily represented by members of various East Coast decoy collectors' clubs that include the Thousand Islands, Long Island, New Jersey, Delaware Valley, Potomac, Palmetto State and Carolina Collectors clubs. As this show has grown, it has drawn many collectors from across the country, who not only enjoy the show, but are able to preview decoys at the nearby Guyette & Deeter corporate headquarters for their forthcoming Pheasant Run auction.

As in the past, savvy local collectors were on hand Thursday to see and buy what was in the off-load offering. Commerce was instantaneous. Free appraisals as part of the event advertisement in Eastern Shore newspapers drew some locals with old decoys that included, among others, a rig of 1950s Madison Mitchell Canvasbacks and a diminutive palm-sized worn original paint Tom Parsons Bufflehead.

Most vendors shut down late Friday afternoon to attend a new waterfowling exhibit preview party, with food and drink, at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum's old boat house that was sponsored by ECDC members Henry Stansbury and the auction firm of Guyette & Deeter. The new artifact exhibit entitled "Chesapeake Ammo, Camo & Calls," features the transformation

of Chesapeake waterfowling gear, tools and clothing, as it evolved from simple to sophisticated over the past 100 plus years. The exhibit displays many prized gunning artifacts from ECDC membership.

Some collectors took this opportunity, not only to sell, but to also display some of their favorite decoys. Maryland collector Will Freng's three-bird fine original paint display included a Harry V. Shourds, circa 1900, Redhead with JEB brand, a 1910 Mason Premier Mallard drake, and a Harry M. Shourds Black Duck, that was purchased directly from Harry M's son Harry V. Shourds II. All three birds were spectacular!

Maryland collector Don Kirson's display never disappoints. This year featured a five-bird display of original paint decoys from three different decoy makers. The pair of Ward Bros. "Bishop Head" Wigeons, circa 1928, garnered many comments, as did his pair of circa 1919 Sam Hutchins (Jones Fall, Ontario) Goldeneyes with carved cross hatching. Capt. Charles Osgood (Salem MA) Merganser hen, circa 1880, rounded out this grouping of fine birds.

Maryland collectors Ron & Kim Newcomb's display featured seven unique canvass covered unknown maker birds from the first quarter of the last century that included four stick-up geese, two of them with horsehair covered necks, two Brant floaters with canvass covered heads, and a Dorchester County flying Merganser complete with canvass-covered spread wings. The Newcomb's entire room, is set-up each year, sale birds inclusive, like a small museum display.

With a forecast of cold heavy rains, gusting winds, and possible snow, some vendors packed it in Friday afternoon with a handful more shutting down early Saturday with the heavy rains. The catered membership cookout, for the first time in our 19-year history at this location, was moved inside, where 84 or so enjoyed good food, good



*Virginia collector Steve Dudley examining an Edson Gray jumbo black duck*

drink, comradery, and fine music by local balladeer Anna Burgess. Along with the good food, and there was a lot of it, Bill Courdrey and Jim Trimble, Jr., as they had done Friday afternoon in the parking lot, again shucked New Jersey clams and Cape Charles seaside oysters for the appreciative gourmands!

After the meal, ECDC President Tim Sieger welcomed the crowd and had a few summarizing comments about the weekend and next year's show dates. Instead of re-opening rooms after the meal, most packed-up and got on the road as the sun broke through, giving way to bluebird skies. In spite of weather conditions, it was a fun duck-packed weekend!



*(l to r) Virginia collectors Jim Van Ness and Tom East holding a pair of Ned Mayne wood cork wood ducks. These unsigned gunners represent two of the seven Mayne woodies that were offered for sale as unknowns and grabbed quickly by savvy buyers.*

# The Magical Art of Bill Gibian

By James W. Carroll, Jr.

Photography by  
Scott Moody  
Labrador Design

*Don't Miss  
This Unique  
Collection Now  
on Display in  
the Carvers'  
Gallery*

**Snow Goose (1990)**

*This carving was made for collector John Collier's 50th birthday as a companion piece to go with a substantially identical painting that was a gift from his wife, Veronica. Both are displayed at the Decoy Museum.*



From left, carver Bill Gibian, collector John Collier, and Decoy Museum President Pat Vincenti in a celebratory moment as they unveil John's collection of Bill's carvings now on exhibit in the Carvers' Gallery.

Let's get right to the bottom line... Bill Gibian's wildfowl carvings are phenomenal, and we are grateful to John Collier for sharing part of his collection with us. If a picture is worth a thousand words, I can hardly advance this story more than these great pictures that Scott Moody spent an evening composing for us.

Born in Passaic, New Jersey, Bill Gibian now lives a world away in Onancock on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. His aptitude for art came from his mother, a self-taught artist herself who worked in many media and who encouraged Bill's interest in drawing and model building from an early age. In later years, working for his father's plastic rotational molding factory provided an outlet for his nascent mechanical and artistic aptitudes.

Bill's grandfather was an avid birder whose binoculars and a book by John James Audubon gave Bill a start in learning about waterfowl and their special characteristics. Most of his knowledge of birds has come from looking through binoculars and a camera rather than sighting down the barrel of a shotgun, and observation of birds and their whimsical behaviors in their natural habitat have provided perhaps the greatest influence on his style and pattern designs. "You must observe the live birds to understand their habits and colors," he says.



**Herring Gull** (2006)

*There is a bible quote inside the fish that is at the gull's feet. Bill is a deeply religious man and generally includes a scripture verse or some other spiritual message as part of his carvings*



**Barnacle Goose** (2013)



**Whimbrel** (2014)



**Northern Lapwing** (2010)

**Crow** (2013)

*won a 1st place in contemporary carvings at the March 2016  
Potomac Decoy Collectors Association show in Annapolis*



**Glossy Ibis**  
(1980s)



**Robin** (2016)  
*is John's most recent  
acquisition from Bill.*

**Wood Duck**  
(2002)



**Willet**  
(2006)



Bill's carvings are far more elegant than gunning decoys, but he has not attempted to duplicate the fine detail of many decorative birds, such as feathering with a wood burner or dental drill. What sets Bill's carvings apart are the detailed painting, the true-to-life coloration, and the blending rendered meticulously in oils. He applies the darkest colors first and layers on the lighter ones. The result is a mellow mixture and iridescence that provides a visual depth.

Notably, Bill poses his carvings with attention to animation based on his observations of the natural behaviors of the birds – with turned heads, raised or dropped wings, and open bills – so they appear to be frozen in an instant of motion, as if they were a single frame cropped from a movie.

Bill says, "Each bird is like a brand new experience." As he finishes one, he is left with questions as to "why I didn't do this or try that," and he incorporates lessons learned as he goes along. "I want to make each new bird better than the one before."

Bill names carver Mark McNair as providing early encouragement after he moved to the Delmarva Peninsula in 1981. The carvings of Bill Bowman and Elmer Crowell were major influences on the development of his own style. Northern white cedar is Bill's preferred wood, and many of his birds are hollow to reduce their tendency to crack as the wood dries and ages.

Bill's work over the past 30 years has produced an impressive following. Among his devotees is Severna Park, Md. collector John Collier ([www.pottercoy.com](http://www.pottercoy.com)) whose collection is so extensive that he kindly offered to share with the Decoy Museum and its visitors the two-dozen creations displayed on these pages.

John knows a thing or two about decoys. He has hunted since he was 10-years old and growing up on Locust Point in



**Mallard hen and drake**

(2005) *in style of Huck Caines of Georgetown, SC*



**Golden Plover**

(2013)



**Gambel's Quail**

(2000)

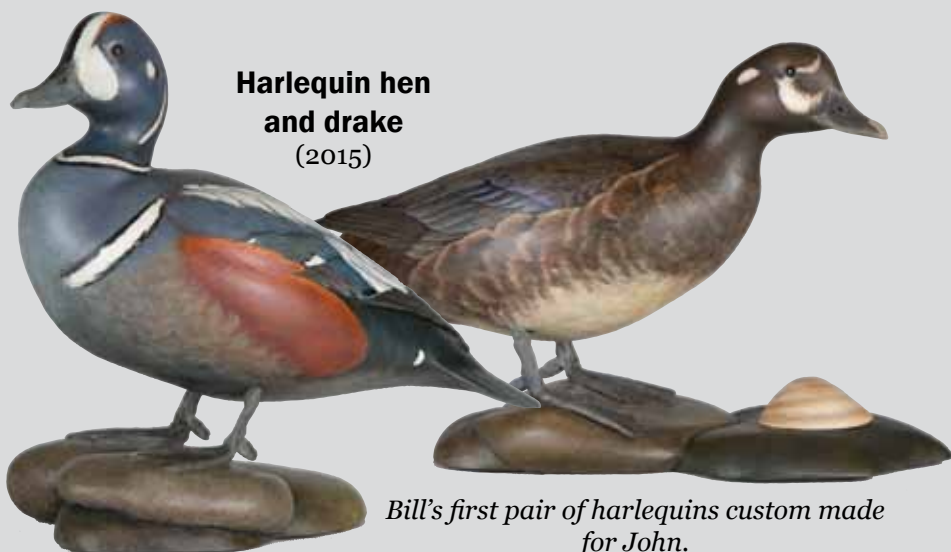
**Passenger Pigeon**

(2015) *extinct since 1914, was custom made for John.*



**Gadwall hen and drake**

(2013)



**Harlequin hen and drake**  
(2015)

*Bill's first pair of harlequins custom made for John.*



**Oldsquaw drakes**  
(2000) in summer plumage (top) and winter plumage



**Goshawk** (1995)  
was custom made for John and was Bill's first bird of prey.



Baltimore not far from the ramparts of Fort McHenry, birthplace of The Star Spangled Banner. In those days, John and his father hunted over a large rig of decoys by Lem and Steve Ward.

John has been collecting for 55 years and has changed the focus of his collection from time to time. Early on he emphasized pintails and built up a good collection of them. Later he collected Ward brothers' carvings and those of Billy Ellis in Whitby, Ontario.

But he says his favorite carvings are Bill Gibian's creations. All of the Gibian carvings in John's collection started as a concept in John's mind that was refined by discussions and brainstorming between the two of them and finally rendered in wood as a beautiful counterfeit bird.

John first met Bill at the Chincoteague "Snow Goose Festival" about 35 years ago. Initially he was drawn to Bill's shorebird carvings that remind him so much of Elmer Crowell's style. Two glossy ibises were the first carvings that John acquired. They have aged beautifully, and the paint has taken on a magical iridescent patina.

John's collection of Bill Gibian carvings is extensive and diverse. In our new exhibit he has generously allowed us to present about half of his collection for your enjoyment. We are very grateful to John Collier for this very special and rare glimpse of Bill Gibian's amazing talent.

**S**tephen Ward (1895-1976) and Lemuel T. Ward, Jr. (1896-1984) were legendary and prolific carvers from the small town of Crisfield on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Barbers by trade, they were also decoy makers. In the 1950s they began a transition from gunning decoys to make some of the most beautiful decorative decoys ever created and called themselves “Wildfowl Counterfeiters in Wood”. Such was their renown that they were featured in National Geographic magazine and honored by the National Endowment for the Arts. They are the namesakes of the Ward Museum at Salisbury University.

Steve Ward had carved a bald eagle at one time. Out of respect for his brother’s artistry, Lem promised Steve that he would never make an eagle while Steve was alive. After Steve’s death, Lem carved his own eagle but died before he had a chance to finish it. There it sat in the shop and later in the house of his daughter Ida Ward Linton with a coat of primer and covered with a cloth. Finally, it became a distant memory. There was talk among collectors of a Lem Ward eagle “out there somewhere”, but the line between myth and reality blurred.

Fast forward... Collector John Collier quietly acquired the unfinished eagle from Ida in recent years with the objective to see that it was properly completed. John engaged Bill Gibian to make any necessary repairs and paint the eagle, which he did splendidly. It became a little-known element of John’s collection.

When the Decoy Museum executive director and volunteers went to John’s house to pick up this fine collection that he has let us put on exhibit, volunteer Matt Kneisley mentioned the legendary Lem Ward eagle wondering if there could be an element of truth to the stories. With a nod of his head, John indicated, “That is the Lem Ward eagle.”

Myth crashed head-on into reality. The eagle was tenderly carried from John’s house and now sits proudly in the Decoy Museum where the fusion of the skills of two great wildfowl artists can be admired by all.



# Annapolis Decoy Show

The Potomac Decoy Collectors Association's (PDCA) inaugural Annapolis Decoy Show was held Sunday, June 12th at the spacious and well-lit Annapolis Elks Lodge. 60 tables were leased to 40 vendors which included three area waterfowl related museums as well as the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited. Besides seasoned decoy vendors, there were several PDCA members who took this opportunity to thin-out their collections. Show hours were ten to four with no admission charge. The show appeared to be well attended, drawing collectors from the mid-Atlantic region. This area has not hosted a decoy show since the early 1990s. PDCA President Chad Tragakis, who was pleased with the vendor quality, variety and number of visitors, also expressed that he was delighted to bring a decoy show back to the Annapolis area after a 25-year void. Downtown colonial Annapolis is a tourist Mecca and several of those in attendance planned their day to include a stroll of the downtown waterfront and enjoy its abundance of fine eateries and boutique shops.

Vendor tables were primarily loaded with vintage decoys and other waterfowl related artifacts as well as vintage oyster related stuffs. Contemporary decoy vendors included blue ribbon carvers Ray Whetzel, Bruce Eppard & Eddie Wozny. A display of about 40 or so Annapolis/Anne Arundel County vintage decoys by local seasoned collector/vendors Dick Larrimore and Eric Steinline was well done and well received. The decoys are somewhat unique to this area of the Chesapeake's western shore and included maker identification and/or family made or rig attribution. In the parking lot, one local stopped and showed me a Jim Currier hi-head canvasback that he had purchased from vendor Larrimore, complete with item description that included the Annapolis gunning rig from whence it came. This collector was pleased with his purchase. He related that as a kid, he had been in and out of the rig owner's home many times and well remembers the numerous baskets of old gunning decoys.

Tragakis reported that the feedback and show results were positive and advises that the PDCA group is planning on a return to Annapolis and that there is already a vendor waiting list for next year's show. Tragakis also commented: "Public education is a big part of what PDCA is trying to do with this show," He pointed out and discussed the unique Annapolis/Anne Arundel decoy display, the free identifications and valuations that club members provided, and further noted the positive impact of the three Chesapeake Bay area museums that celebrate decoys as well as the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited that chose to participate. The Potomac Decoy Collectors Association is located in the metropolitan Washington DC area and its membership includes directors of East Coast waterfowl related museums, publishers of decoy related periodicals, authors of decoy related books, plus several contributing writers to various decoy related magazines.

For more information about PDCA and its activities, please contact Chad Tragakis @ 703-593-3034 or chad.tragakis@gmail.com.

By Jim Trimble



*(left to right) Maryland collector/vendors John Henry & Dave Farrow examining black duck decoys by makers Cigar Daisey & John Glenn.*



*(left to right) Maryland vendors Lindsey, Bruce & Rose Baynard with a fine offering of Maryland decoys.*



*(left to right) Maryland vendors Denise & Chris Pusey with a fine Ira Hudson black duck, one of the many Atlantic Seashore decoys that they had for sale*

# *A Room with A View*



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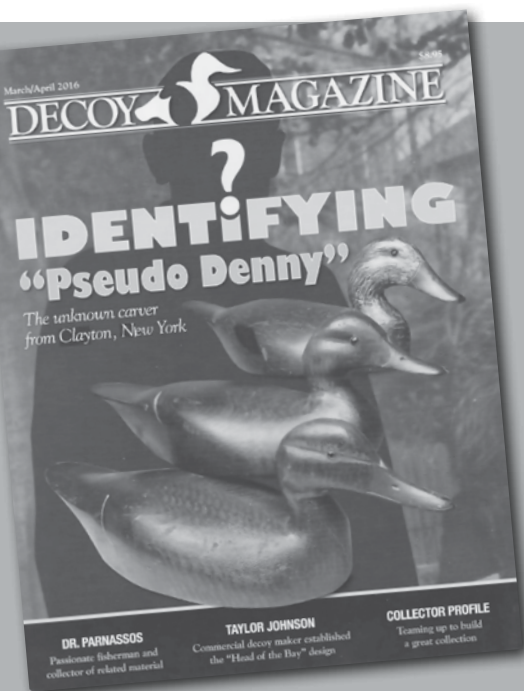
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Continued from Page 11

### **"Whitey Franck" Slick Decoy**

#### **DIVER**

*Canvasback*

**1st** Steve Reiner

#### **MARSH**

*Mallard*

**1st** Robin A. Oliver

#### **BEST IN SHOW**

**1st** Robin A. Oliver

*Mallard*

**2nd** Steve Reiner

*Canvasback*

### **Gunning Decoy**

#### **DIVER**

*Bufflehead*

**1st** Robin A. Oliver

**2nd** Robin A. Oliver

*Canvasback*

**1st** Ron Young

**2nd** Ron Young

**3rd** Daniel Lozano

**HM** Michael Devaux

*Red-breasted Merganser*

**1st** David Farrow

*Redhead*

**1st** Andrew Farrow

**2nd** Andrew Farrow

**3rd** Michael Collier

*Scaup/Bluebill*

**1st** Andrew Farrow

**2nd** Andrew Farrow

#### **BEST OF DIVER**

**1st** Ron Young

*Canvasback*

**2nd** Robin A. Oliver

*Bufflehead*

**3rd** Ron Young

*Canvasback*

#### **MARSH**

*Mallard*

**1st** Ron Young

**2nd** Ron Young

*Northern Pintail*

**1st** Robin A. Oliver

**2nd** David Farrows

*Shoveler*

**1st** Timothy Dawson

**2nd** Timothy Dawson

*Wood Duck*

**1st** Guy J. Brandy

#### **BEST OF MARSH**

**1st** Ron Young

*Mallard*

**2nd** Ron Young

*Mallard*

**3rd** Robin A. Oliver

*Northern Pintail*

#### **BEST IN SHOW**

**1st** Ron Young

*Canvasback*

**2nd** Robin A. Oliver

*Bufflehead*

**3rd** Ron Young

*Mallard*

### **Other**

#### **TRADITIONAL WORKING**

**1st** Chris Martin

*Whimbrel*

**2nd** Chris Martin

*Lesser Yellowlegs*

#### **CONTEMPORARY**

#### **ANTIQUÉ STYLE DECOYS**

**1st** Daniel Lozano

*Canvasback*

### **WOMEN'S DIVISION**

**1st** Peggy Worton

*Common Tern*

### **YOUTH GUNNING**

**1st** Michael Devaux

*Canvasback*

### **River Gunning Decoys: Round-Bottom Singles**

#### **DIVERS**

*Bufflehead*

**1st** Bryon Bodt

**2nd** Matt Kneisley

*Canvasback*

**1st** Scott Green

**2nd** Joey Jobes

**3rd** Shawn Benner

*Goldeneye*

**1st** Matt Kneisley

**2nd** Matt Kneisley

*Common Merganser*

**1st** Matt Kneisley

**2nd** Dominic

*Mezzanotte*

*Redhead*

**1st** Matt Kneisley



**2nd** Matt Kneisley  
**3rd** Matt Kneisley

*Ring-necked Duck*

**1st** Matt Kneisley  
**2nd** Joey Jobs  
**3rd** Joey Jobs

*Scaup/Bluebill*

**1st** John Casey  
**2nd** John Casey  
**3rd** Joey Jobs

*Scoter*

**1st** Matt Kneisley  
**2nd** Matt Kneisley  
**3rd** Corey Clare

**BEST OF DIVERS**

**1st** Matt Kneisley  
**2nd** Scott Green  
**3rd** John Casey

**MARSH**

*Black Duck*

**1st** Tyler Coleman

*Blue-winged Teal*

**1st** Matt Kneisley  
**2nd** Matt Kneisley

*Cinnamon Teal*

**1st** Matt Kneisley

*Green-winged Teal*

**1st** Zach Clare

*Mallard*

**1st** John Casey  
**2nd** John Casey  
**3rd** Charles Jobs

*Northern Pintail*

**1st** Matt Kneisley

*Shoveler*

**1st** Shawn Benner

*Wood Duck*

**1st** Matt Kneisley  
**2nd** Matt Kneisley

**BEST OF MARSH**

**1st** Matt Kneisley  
**2nd** John Casey  
**3rd** Shawn Benner

**GOOSE & CONFIDENCE**

*Canada Goose*

**1st** Joey Jobs  
**2nd** Joey Jobs  
**3rd** Matt Kneisley

*Blue Snow Goose*

**1st** George Williams

*Coot*

**1st** John Casey  
**2nd** Matt Kneisley  
**3rd** Matt Kneisley

*Grebe*

**1st** Todd Bergman

*Gull*

**1st** John Casey  
**2nd** Shawn Benner  
**3rd** Matt Kneisley

**BEST OF GOOSE & CONFIDENCE**

**1st** George Williams  
*Blue Snow Goose*  
**2nd** Joey Jobs  
*Canada Goose*  
**3rd** Todd Bergman  
*Grebe*

**BEST IN SHOW: ROUND-BOTTOM SINGLES**

**1st** Matt Kneisley  
*Redhead*  
**2nd** George Williams  
*Blue Snow Goose*



**River Gunning Decoys:  
Round-Bottom  
Tandem/Pairs**

**DIVER**

*Canvasbacks*

**1st** Shawn Benner  
**2nd** Joey Jobs  
**3rd** Matt Kneisley

*Goldeneyes*

**1st** Matt Kneisley

*Redheads*

**1st** Matt Kneisley  
**2nd** Joey Jobs

*Ring-necked Ducks*

**1st** Joey Jobs

*Scaups/Bluebills*

**1st** John Casey  
**2nd** Joey Jobs  
**3rd** Matt Kneisley

**BEST OF DIVERS**

**1st** Matt Kneisley  
*Redheads*  
**2nd** John Casey  
*Scaups/Bluebills*  
**3rd** Shawn Benner  
*Canvasbacks*



## MARSH

*Blue-winged Teal*

**1st** Matt Kneisley

*Mallards*

**1st** Charles Jobs

**2nd** John Casey

*Wood Ducks*

**1st** Matt Kneisley

## BEST OF MARSH

**1st** Matt Kneisley  
*Blue-winged Teal*

**2nd** Charles Jobs  
*Mallards*

**3rd** Matt Kneisley  
*Wood Ducks*

## GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

*Canada Geese*

**1st** Joey Jobs

**2nd** Matt Kneisley

*Coots*

**1st** Matt Kneisley



## BEST OF GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

**1st** Joey Jobs  
*Canada Geese*

**2nd** Matt Kneisley  
*Coots*

## BEST IN SHOW: ROUND-BOTTOM TANDEM/PAIRS

**1st** Matt Kneisley  
*Redheads*

**2nd** Matt Kneisley  
*Blue-winged Teal*

**3rd** Joey Jobs  
*Canada Geese*

## River Gunning Decoys: Round-Bottom Class Rigs

## DIVERS

*Canvasbacks*

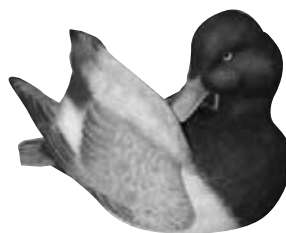
**1st** Matt Kneisley

**2nd** Matt Kneisley

**3rd** Shawn Benner

*Redheads*

**1st** Matt Kneisley



## MARSH

*Blue-winged Teal*

**1st** Matt Kneisley

*Mallards*

**1st** John Casey

## BEST OF DIVERS

**1st** Matt Kneisley  
*Redheads*

**2nd** Matt Kneisley  
*Canvasbacks*

## BEST OF MARSH

**1st** Matt Kneisley  
*Blue-winged Teal*

**2nd** John Casey  
*Mallards*

## BEST IN SHOW: ROUND-BOTTOM CLASS RIGS

**1st** Matt Kneisley  
*Redheads*

**2nd** Matt Kneisley  
*Blue-winged Teal*

## River Gunning Decoys: Flat-Bottom Singles

## DIVERS

*Bufflehead*

**1st** Brian Moyse

**2nd** Scott Green

**3rd** Brian Moyse

*Canvasback*

**1st** Bill Thurman

**2nd** Scott Green

**3rd** Dylan Bakner

*Goldeneye*

**1st** Brian Moyse

**2nd** Rob James

**3rd** Brian Moyse

*Hooded Merganser*

**1st** Steve Osborne

**2nd** Matt Kneisley

*Long-tailed Duck*

**1st** Scott Green

**2nd** Rob Oliver

**3rd** Rob Oliver

*Redhead*

**1st** Tyler Frank

**2nd** Bill Thurman

**3rd** Kevin Pasquarette



#### *Ruddy Duck*

**1st** Brian Moyse

#### *Scaup/Bluebill*

**1st** Scott Green

#### *Scoter*

**1st** Scott Green

**2nd** Tyler Frank

#### **BEST OF DIVERS**

**1st** Brian Moyse

*Ruddy Duck*

**2nd** Brian Moyse

*Bufflehead*

**3rd** Bill Thurman

*Canvasback*

#### **MARSH**

#### *Black Duck*

**1st** Daniel Green

**2nd** Rob Oliver

**3rd** Matt Kneisley

#### *Mallard*

**1st** Matt Kneisley

**2nd** Bill Thurman

**3rd** Tyler Frank

#### *Blue-winged Teal*

**1st** Bill Thurman

**2nd** Matt Kneisley

#### *Green-winged Teal*

**1st** Daniel Green

**2nd** Aaron Fry

**3rd** Bill Thurman

#### *Cinnamon Teal*

**1st** Bill Thurman

**2nd** Matt Kneisley

#### *Wood Duck*

**1st** Rob Oliver

**2nd** Rob Oliver

**3rd** Tyler Frank

#### **BEST OF MARSH**

**1st** Rob Oliver

*Wood Duck*

**2nd** Matt Kneisley

*Mallard*

**3rd** Bill Thurman

*Cinnamon Teal*

#### **GOOSE & CONFIDENCE**

#### *Canada*

**1st** Rob Oliver

#### *Brant*

**1st** David Jack

**2nd** David Jack

**3rd** Rob Oliver

#### *Swan*

**1st** Rob Oliver

#### *Coot*

**1st** Heck Rice

**2nd** Heck Rice

#### *Ross's Goose*

**1st** Scott Green

**2nd** Scott Green

#### **BEST OF GOOSE & CONFIDENCE**

**1st** Scott Green

*Ross's Goose*

**2nd** David Jack

*Brant*

**3rd** Heck Rice

*Coot*

#### **BEST IN SHOW**

**1st** Brian Moyse

*Ruddy Duck*

**2nd** Rob Oliver

*Wood Duck (Hen)*

**3rd** Scott Green

*Ross's Goose*

#### **River Gunning Decoys: Flat-Bottom Tandem/Pairs**

#### **DIVER**

#### *Barrow's Goldeneyes*

**1st** Brian Moyse

#### *Buffleheads*

**1st** Brian Moyse

#### *Canvasbacks*

**1st** Scott Green

**2nd** Bill Thurman

#### *Common Goldeneyes*

**1st** Jim Long

#### *Long-tailed Ducks*

**1st** Rob Oliver

#### **BEST OF DIVER**

**1st** Brian Moyse

*Barrow's Goldeneyes*

**2nd** Brian Moyse

*Buffleheads*

**3rd** Scott Green

*Canvasbacks*





## MARSH

### *Black Ducks*

**1st** Matt Kneisley

### *Blue-winged Teal*

**1st** Matt Kneisley

### *Cinnamon Teal*

**1st** Bill Thurman

### *Green-winged Teal*

**1st** Bill Thurman

**2nd** Neil Geisel

### *Mallards*

**1st** Bill Thurman

**2nd** Matt Kneisley

**3rd** Tyler Coleman

### *Wood Ducks*

**1st** Rob Oliver

**2nd** Matt Kneisley

### *Wigeons*

**1st** Bill Thurman

## BEST OF MARSH

**1st** Bill Thurman

*Mallards*

**2nd** Rob Oliver

*Wood Ducks*

**3rd** Matt Kneisley

*Black Ducks*

## GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

### *Canada Geese*

**1st** Rob Oliver

### *Brant*

**1st** David Jack

### *Ross's Geese*

**1st** Scott Green

## BEST OF GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

**1st** Scott Green

*Ross's Geese*

**2nd** David Jack

*Brant*

**3rd** Rob Oliver

*Canada Geese*

## BEST IN SHOW

**1st** Scott Green

*Ross's Geese*

**2nd** Brian Moyse

*Barrow's Goldeneyes*

**3rd** Bill Thurman

*Mallards*

## River Gunning Decoys: Flat-Bottom Class Rigs

## DIVERS

### *Canvasbacks*

**1st** Scott Green

## BEST OF DIVERS

**1st** Scott Green

*Canvasbacks*

## MARSH

### *Mallards*

**1st** Matt Kneisley

### *Black Ducks*

**1st** Matt Kneisley

### *Green-winged Teal*

**1st** Matt Kneisley

## BEST OF MARSH

**1st** Matt Kneisley

*Mallards*

**2nd** Matt Kneisley

*Black Ducks*

**3rd** Matt Kneisley

*Green-winged Teal*

## BEST IN SHOW

**1st** Scott Green

*Canvasbacks*

**2nd** Matt Kneisley

*Mallards*





# 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:

## **LIFE**

Ed Henry

## **NARM**

Stacey Smith  
Chris & Amanda Williams

## **FAMILY**

Steven & Julie Allen  
Stephen & Patricia Anderson  
John Antal & Theresia Logan  
Alfred & Mary Boehly  
Richard & Dorothy Bush  
James & Kyla Butts  
Raymond Clare & Theresia Logan  
Thomas & Margherita Coudon  
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George & Candyce Henneberger

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David & Joan Jack  
Rod & Elaine Lockard  
Brian & Cindy Loher  
David & Deborah Martin  
Ronald & Carolyn Mathias  
James & Carol Mooney  
Harold & Lyn Ann Mueller  
Robert & Debbie Nickerson  
Randall O'Neal  
Stephen & Patricia Smith  
Randy & Merry Tyler  
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David & Monica Worrell  
Aimee York

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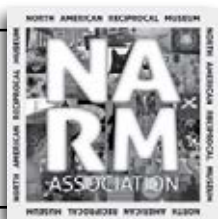
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Rodney Boggs  
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Chuck Boyle  
Steven Brown  
John Casey III  
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John Clayton Jr  
Walter Clevenger  
Tyler Coleman  
Russell Daughtridge  
David deFernelmont  
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Tom East  
Ronald Felker  
Edward Fennimore  
Richard Fox  
Rich Garrity  
Neil Geisel

Dean Graham  
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Charles Jacobs



The North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association<sup>sm</sup> is one of the largest reciprocal membership programs in the world with 841 arts, cultural, and historical institutions along with botanical gardens, children's museums, science and technology centers that offer NARM-qualified members reciprocal benefits.

## *Get in the* **FORMATION!**

**Our members are a very  
close-knit and loyal community!**

**Help us spread the word and fulfill our mission.**

A Decoy Museum membership provides financial support for museum exhibits and programming, as well as offering individuals special benefits and opportunities. All members receive a membership card, free admission year round, a subscription to **The Canvasback** magazine, invitations to special events, and discounts in the Gift Shop.

**Not a member? Join Now! — Already a member? Tell a Friend!**

**Go to [DecoyMuseum.com](http://DecoyMuseum.com) or call us at 410.939.3739**





# Museum News

## Current Exhibits @ the Museum

- **John Collier's collection of Bill Gibian's carvings.**
- Two new displays near the front door of Susquehanna Flats wing ducks and miniature carvings by Captain Jimmy Wright of Massey Md. courtesy of C. John Sullivan, Jr.
- 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.



## From the Desk of...

First, I want to welcome our newest team member, graphic designer Anne Fullem, who has assumed responsibility for publishing *The Canvasback*. You will notice some subtle changes as we implement her new designs for corporate identity and branding. We look forward to a long and productive relationship!

I want to send along my personal thanks to all of the volunteers who helped us make the 35th Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival a success. It was wonderful to have worked alongside of you and to have met so many of our members that weekend!



I was blessed to spend time with both John Collier and Bill Gibian in the weeks leading up to the Festival and the unveiling of our exquisite new exhibit, captured in photographs for you here. Both shared some amazing stories with me which have enriched my life. By the way, I strongly encourage you to visit the Museum to see the exhibit in person as it is truly breathtaking – the exhibit will be on display through April 2017.

I also had the pleasure of attending the American Alliance of Museums' annual conference in Washington, D.C. at the end of May. While this was a very large event (over 3,000 attendees), it was jam-packed with information and I had the opportunity to learn from large and small museums alike. I hope to put some of these new ideas into practice as we move forward in advancing our Museum's mission!

Wishing you all a splendid summer,

*Kerri*

Kerri S. Kneisley  
Executive Director



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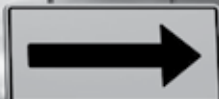
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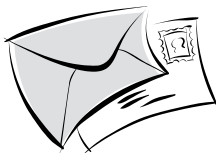
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We are grateful for the generous support  
of our volunteers.



## **What do you like to do?**

Can you lead tours, explain decoy making and the history of the Flats, present programs for school children, greet visitors at the information desk, assist in the gift shop, help our curator on special projects, provide carving demonstrations, plan events, maintain IT systems, do exhibit signage and creative work, assist with fundraising and membership, organize chaos?

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