

The Canvasback

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

Fall 2018
Vol. 28 No. 4

\$3.00



Dusky Ducks

The Wily Black Duck





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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.

THE MUSEUM WAS INCORPORATED IN 1981 AS A 501(c)(3) TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION TO COLLECT, DOCUMENT, PRESERVE, AND INTERPRET WATERFOWL DECOYS AS A UNIQUE FORM OF FOLK ART.

FUNDED IN PART BY



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.

ON THE COVER

Depicted on the cover, against the backdrop of one of **Scott Moody's** amazing waterfowl photographs are (top) a black duck by **Jim Holly** (Havre de Grace, MD, c. 1890) and (bottom) one by **William Heverin** (Charlestown, MD, c. 1910) in a long-body style, both courtesy of **Chad & Christy Tragakis**. Scott is also the Decoy Museum's webmaster, and you can see more of his work at www.labradordesign.com.

Contents

Features

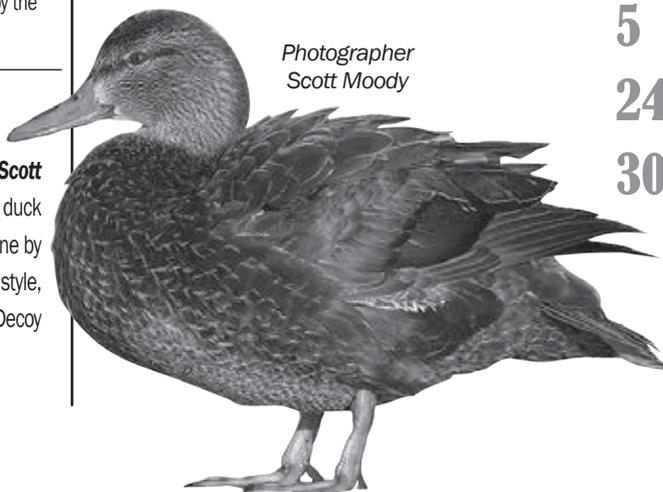
- 8 Snipe Shooting on Spesutia Island
- 10 Candlelight Tour 2018
- 12 Black Ducks
The PDCA Launches New Exhibit
- 25 Potomac & Upper Bay Collectors
Hold Joint Meeting
- 26 2nd Annual Carve & Candy
- 27 Events at the R. Madison Mitchell Shop
- 29 Fall Raffle 2018



Departments

- 5 From the President
- 24 Museum News
- 30 Museum Members

Photographer
Scott Moody





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From the President...

Dear Museum Member:

We have had a great summer. Kerri and Matt Kneisley have had the R. Madison Mitchell shop open each weekend with events that have drawn many participants and visitors. There have been some distractions with repair work on the promenade and a major landscaping project on the embankment in front of the Museum. The bank had become wildly overgrown with non-native plants, which the Maritime Museum has undertaken to return it to its natural condition with the support of the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Decoy Museum.

These things all help to improve our visitor traffic and our contribution to Harford County tourism. We continue to draw visitors from all over the world, many of whom stay overnight, eat here, shop here, and visit other attractions. As a consequence, the Harford County Office of Economic Development renewed our tourism-related grant in June. We thank everyone who made that possible, especially County Executive Barry Glassman. We continue to have the much-needed support of Mayor Bill Martin and the Havre de Grace City Council as well as the Maryland State Arts Council, each of whom provide us with generous annual grants.

We keep the Museum's doors open 360 days every year and accomplish a lot with slim resources. While these grants help, the majority of our funding comes from our members and other supporters. As December 31st approaches, think about including the Decoy Museum in your 2018 charitable giving plans. If you are downsizing, in-kind gifts of decoys and other waterfowling collectables are also very valuable to us as possible auction and raffle items. No amount is too small.

Along that line, we have four great prizes for the fall raffle, so watch for your tickets in the mail and give generously! The drawing will be at 6:00 on the night of the Candlelight Tour – Saturday, December 8th. You must play to win, and four lucky people always win.

The Potomac Decoy Collectors Association and the Upper Bay Decoy Collectors Club had their first-ever joint meeting at the Decoy Museum on Sunday, August 16th. The PDCA'ers showed up early with over 70 carvings of black ducks to replace their exhibit of wood ducks that has been on display for over a year. The black ducks are amazing. Please come see them.

The Canvasback has now been published continuously for 27 years, starting with the first issue in 1991. The archive on our website is a great resource with back issues of this wonderful quarterly journal downloadable in a PDF format. Check it out.

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is a special place. With your loyalty and support we will continue providing an unforgettable experience for our visitors. We value the contributions of all our supporters who help keep the Museum relevant and growing. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



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 to take a tax deduction for the charitable donation. IRS regulations prohibit us from appraising donated items.

Got time to spare... time to share?

Get involved with the Decoy Museum.

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 museum store, 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?

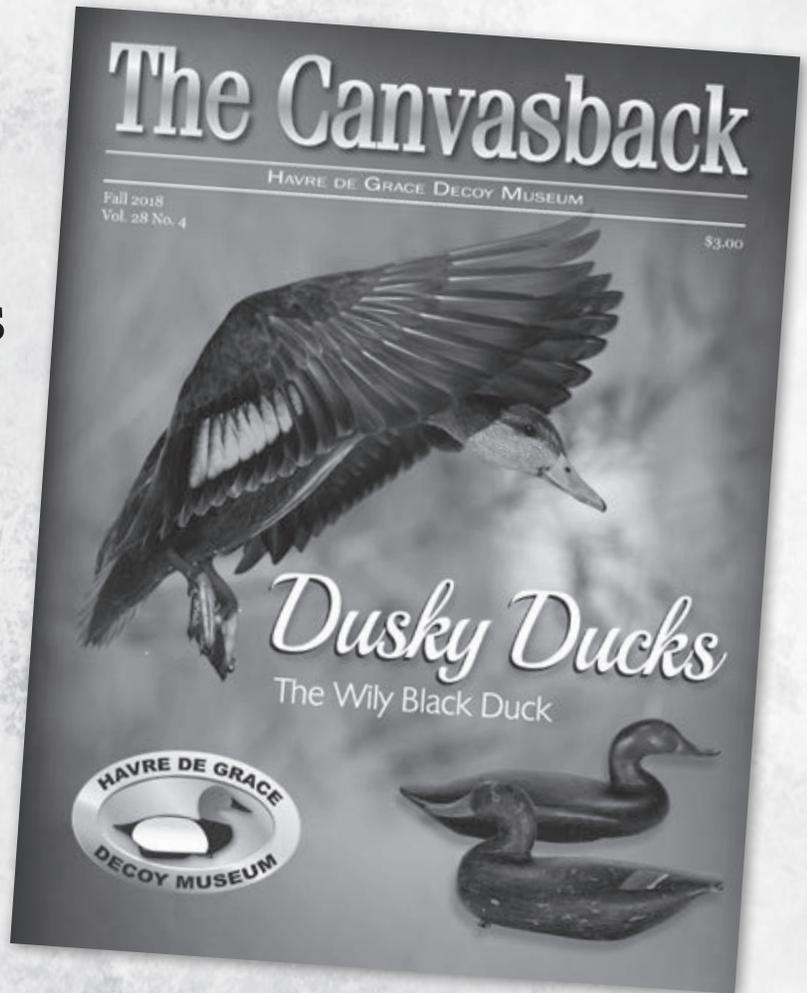


Contact the Decoy Museum Today to Join the Flock

410.939.3739

Advertise in *The Canvasback*

Help Harford County Tourism Promote Your Business & Support the Decoy Museum

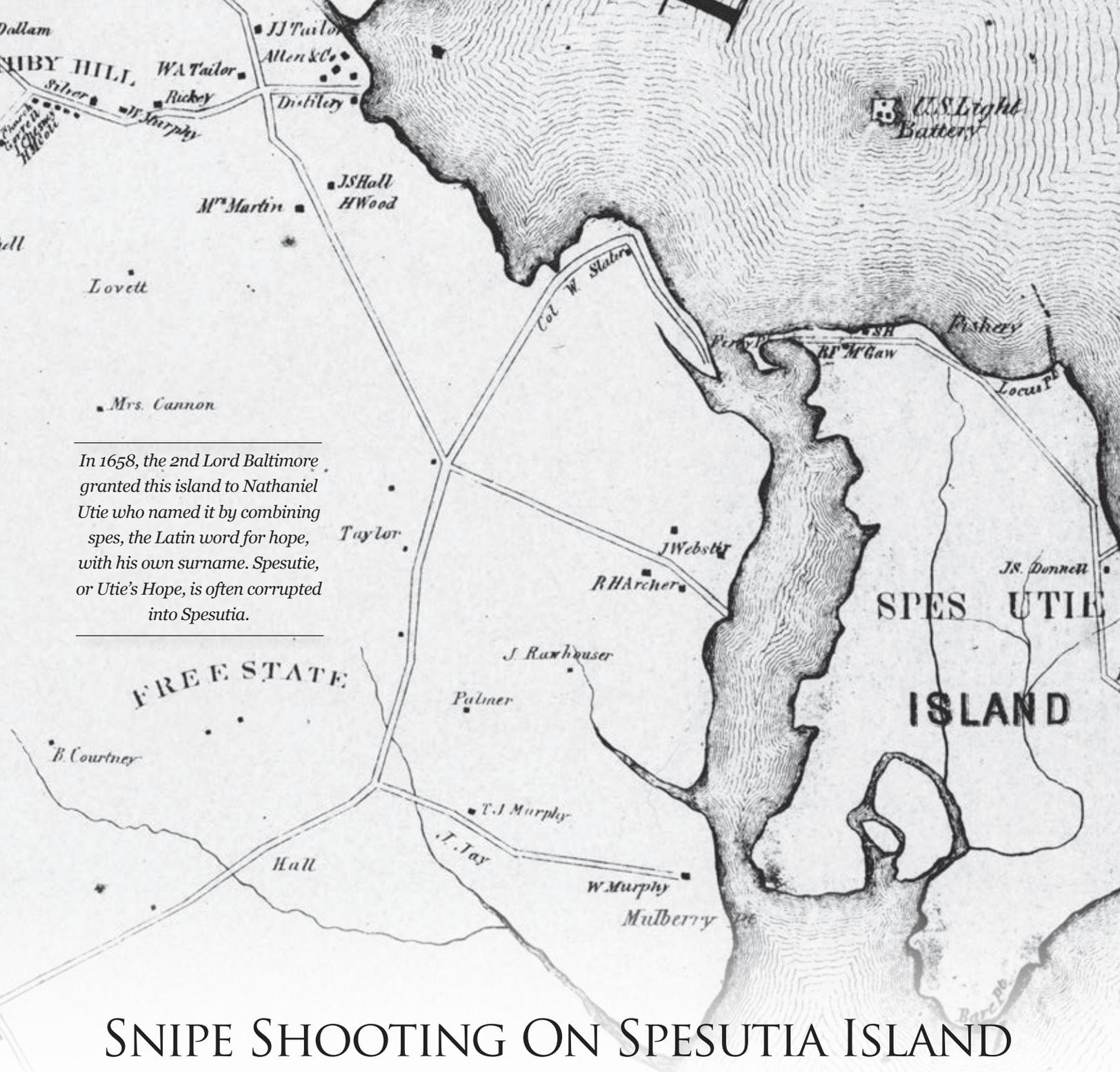


The Decoy Museum's annual Business Members receive:

- Advertising space in ***The Canvasback***
(four quarterly issues)
- A subscription to ***The Canvasback***
- Special discounts for facility rentals
(business or pleasure) in the Carvers' Gallery
- Updates on events & attractions at the Decoy Museum
- Complementary admission tickets to the Decoy Museum
for your employees and business associates.
*Each ticket provides for a 10% discount in
the Museum Shop.*

Business Membership rates (4 quarterly issues) are:	
Supporter	\$175 Business card ad plus 5 admission tickets
Donor	\$325 Quarter-page ad plus 10 admission tickets
Patron	\$625 Half-page ad plus 20 admission tickets
Benefactor	\$1,200 Full-page ad plus 40 admission tickets

These rates are for grayscale ads. A surcharge applies for color ads (space available). Graphic design services are available for an additional charge.



In 1658, the 2nd Lord Baltimore granted this island to Nathaniel Utie who named it by combining spes, the Latin word for hope, with his own surname. Spesutie, or Utie's Hope, is often corrupted into Spesutia.

SNIPE SHOOTING ON SPESUTIA ISLAND

Mr. Editor:

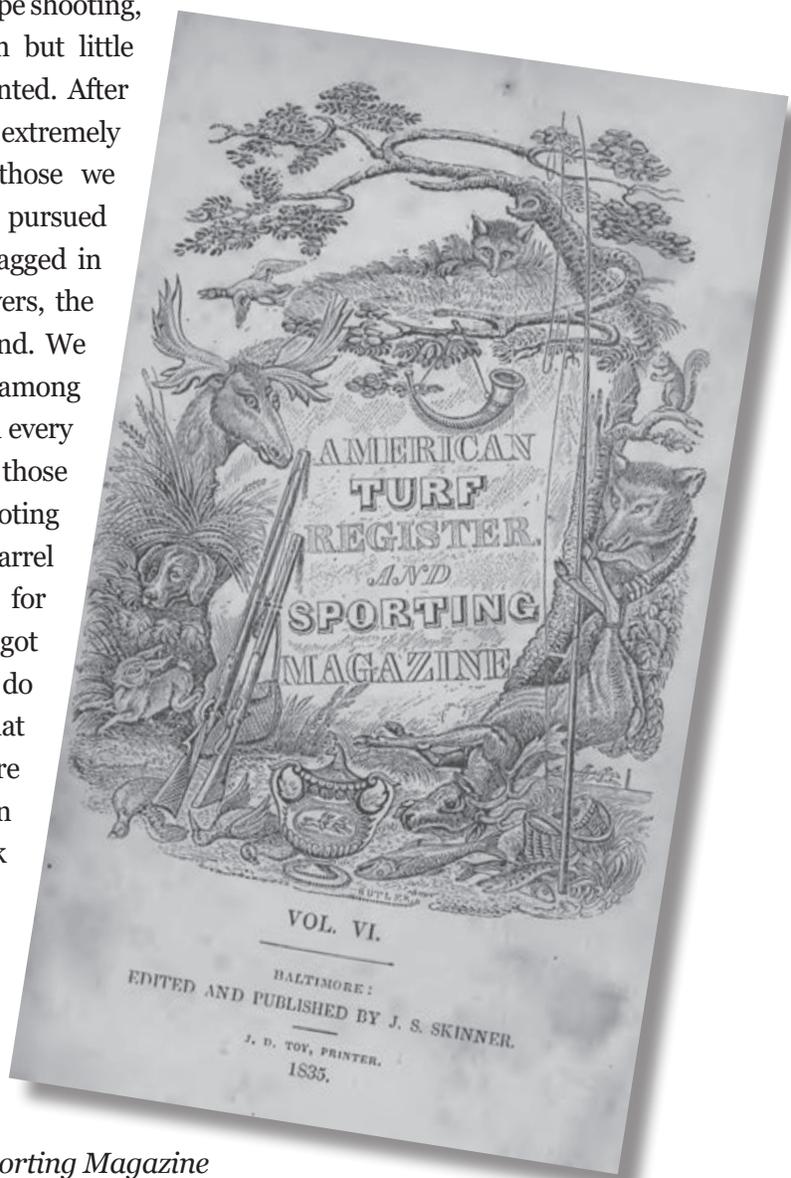
Baltimore, April 27, 1835

“Why, sir, they are so numerous, and so tame, you can thrash them down with hoop poles,” is a remark I have frequently heard made respecting this island, and have often been assured that it was no unusual thing for the seine haulers to procure themselves a breakfast of fine jack snipe, by going on this thrashing expedition for a few minutes, in the marsh, with hoop poles. Such a glowing description of where “game” was so plenty, and so easy come-atable, you may be sure, kindled in me the flame of curiosity to “see and try it.” Accordingly, in company with my friend, (Major W. P.) a keen persevering good sportsman, who has no fastidious pride or apprehensive fear of a wet stocking, a little marsh mud, or a musk-rat hole. We left here for Spesutia on the morning of the 24th inst. at about one o’clock, and

arrived on the “marsh” of “action” at nine. We took no dog along, having been previously assured that would be an useless appendage to the “gun” where game was so plenty. Into the marsh we went, half leg deep in mud and water, in walking about 50 or 60 yards, up got five or six snipe and we brought down three out of the “wisp.” Went to re-loading—the butt of my gun, by the time I returned my ramrod, had sunk about 4 inches and myself about 10 in mud and water, which made it somewhat difficult in getting under headway again, without leaving my boots behind. The birds we found all out among the flags and cat-tails in the middle of the marsh, very wild and not so numerous as I had expected to find them, (even after making due allowance for the microscopic eyes of those who had reported them to be so numerous and tame,) and never in the course of all my shooting, did I experience so tiresome and difficult a marsh to shoot on, there appeared no part of it firm enough to “steady ourselves on.”

“Whilst we pursued the uncertain mark with swift address.
To catch the fleeting moment of success.”

The sportsman that goes to Spesutia a snipe shooting, calculating upon a successful day, with but little exertion or fatigue, will return disappointed. After firing a few rounds, the birds became extremely wild and difficult of approach, and those we succeeded in getting were perseveringly pursued and brought down at long shots. We bagged in this day's shooting 31 snipe, and 2 plovers, the latter are just getting plenty on the island. We lost nine snipe, after being shot down, among the cat-tails, for the want of a dog, (which every sportsman should take along with him for those deep and extensive marshes.) After shooting about half the day, the lock of my left barrel was rendered useless by breaking, but for this accident, no doubt, we should have got a dozen more birds. Now, Mr. Editor, I do not wish to be understood as “saying,” that birds in the season are not to be found here as numerous as any reasonable sportsman could desire, but he will have to work hard to get them, through long, deep, and fatiguing marshes, with a zeal and perseverance that will not tire, and only such sportsmen will suit the meridian of Spesutia Island for snipe shooting.



Source: *American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine*
Vol. 6, No. 10, June 1835, pages 508-509

46th Annual

Candlelight Tour

of Historic Havre de Grace

A self-guided tour of the numerous participating homes, churches, and museums that showcase the diverse character of our historic, charming, and decorated City.

See the Christmas decorations downtown and the festive luminary candles along Union Avenue. Some restaurants will be offering special Candlelight Tour promotions, and some stores will be open late.

Saturday, December 8th • 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Both the Decoy Museum and the R. Madison Mitchell shop, with Len Burcham as guest carver, will be named stops on this year's tour.



*Visit the
Museum Store
for some
Christmas shopping!*

**Fall Raffle
drawing at 6:00!**

Call or visit
TheLockHouseMuseum.org
for details

Purchase tickets online or in person at the Havre de Grace Visitor Center, the Decoy Museum, or the Lockhouse Museum

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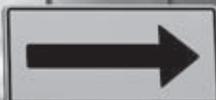
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Black Ducks!

THE PDCA LAUNCHES A NEW EXHIBIT

by Chad Tragakis



Jim Britton

Reedville, VA, c. 2000

Thanks to Bill Powell



Miles Hancock

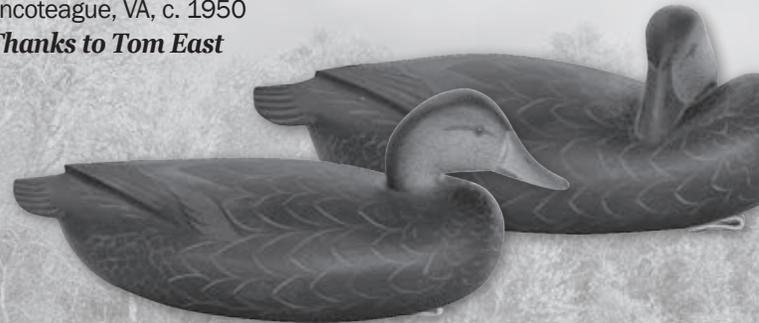
Chincoteague, VA, c. 1950

Thanks to Tom East

Bill Powell

Vienna, VA, c. 2015

Thanks to Bill Powell



George Strunk pair – half-size

Glendora, NJ, c. 1990s

Thanks to Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness

“Shy and vigilant, they are with difficulty approached by the gunner...”

John James Audubon (1938), Birds of America

Intelligent, cautious and fast, the wily black duck has been bewitching and baffling American hunters since the first European settlers attempted to shoot the bird in the marshy waters near Jamestown. It's likely that the wary duck had been puzzling and frustrating Native American hunters for many hundreds, if not thousands, of years before that.

One might think that such a seemingly monochrome species – and especially one whose hen and drake are largely identical – wouldn't lend itself well to the artistic whims and expressions of the decoy artist. That is absolutely not the case. To prove it, members of the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association recently installed an exhibit exploring the vast multitude of different interpretations of this regal duck.

The new display, the PDCA's latest in its 14-year series of guest exhibits at the Decoy Museum, is also one of the club's most ambitious to date. With over 70 examples spanning almost 150 years of decoy making, the stunning collection includes black ducks of almost every proportion (over-sized, full-sized, half-sized, miniature), made from a variety of materials (pine, cedar, cottonwood, balsa, cork), constructed in a number of different ways (solid, hollow, laminated), and crafted in almost every conceivable position: standing, swimming, reaching, preening and with heads in high, low, alert, turned, standard and content poses.

Darkfeather Freedman

Madison Heights, MI, c. 1990s

Thanks to Jim Trimble



Bob McGaw – standard model

Havre de Grace, MD, c. 1935

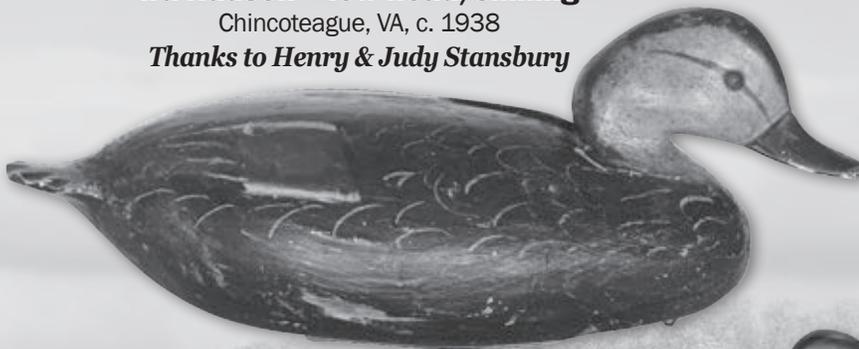
Thanks to SR Smith



Ira Hudson – low-head, smiling

Chincoteague, VA, c. 1938

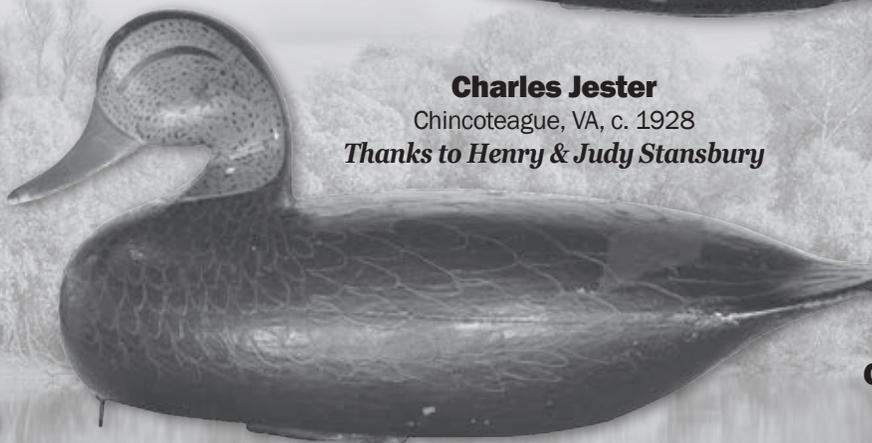
Thanks to Henry & Judy Stansbury



Charles Jester

Chincoteague, VA, c. 1928

Thanks to Henry & Judy Stansbury



George Strunk group of three, quarter-size

Glendora, NJ, c. 1990s

Thanks to Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness

Classic examples by the Ward brothers, Elmer Crowell, Shang Wheeler, Nathan Cobb, Jim Holly, Lloyd Sterling, Ira Hudson, William Heverin and Edson Gray are displayed alongside those by modern masters including Grayson Chesser, Frank Finney, Jimmie Vizier, Reggie Birch, George Strunk, Pete Peterson and Clarence Fennimore. Overall, 50 different makers from 12 U.S. states and Canada are featured along with examples from five important decoy factories. More than a dozen PDCA members loaned examples from their collections for the display.

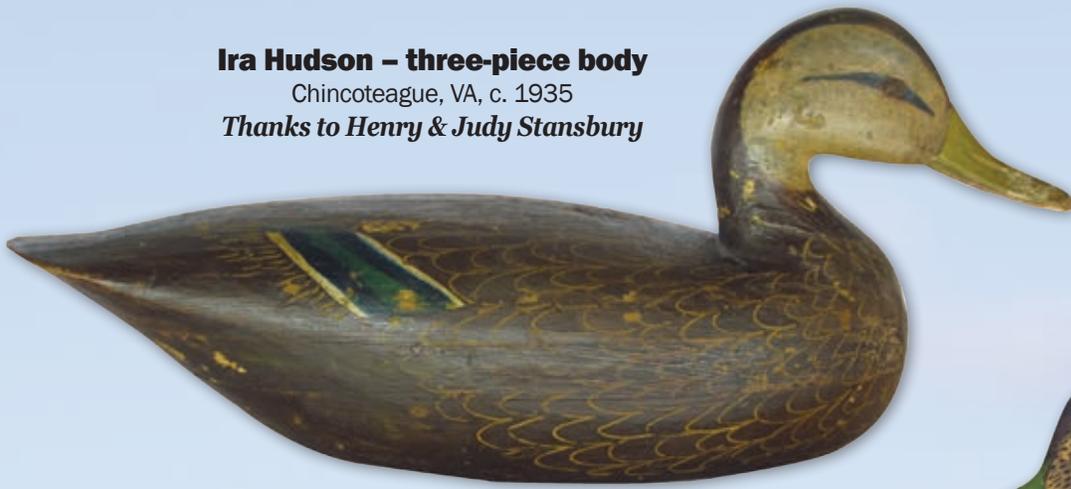
In Eugene Connett’s timeless book, “Duck Shooting Along the Atlantic Tidewater,” sporting artist Lynn Bogue Hunt writes about his own lifelong obsession with the fabled black duck. After decades of gunning in every conceivable way for nearly every type of waterfowl, it was the black duck, Hunt asserted, that continued to command his “utmost admiration and respect.” The seasoned duck hunter and artist was certainly on to something. For as collectors, it is the wary black duck’s wooden counterparts that command our utmost admiration and respect.

PDCA’s new exhibit pays fitting tribute to both the feathered and wooden versions of this beautiful brown bird. To learn more about the PDCA or to join, contact: chad.tragakis@gmail.com.

We thank our friends at the PDCA for entrusting us with this very special collection.

Ira Hudson – three-piece body

Chincoteague, VA, c. 1935
Thanks to Henry & Judy Stansbury



Ward Brothers – bishop's head

Crisfield, MD, c. 1932
Thanks to Don Kirson



Herb Miller

Ship Bottom, NJ, c. 1970s
Thanks to Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness



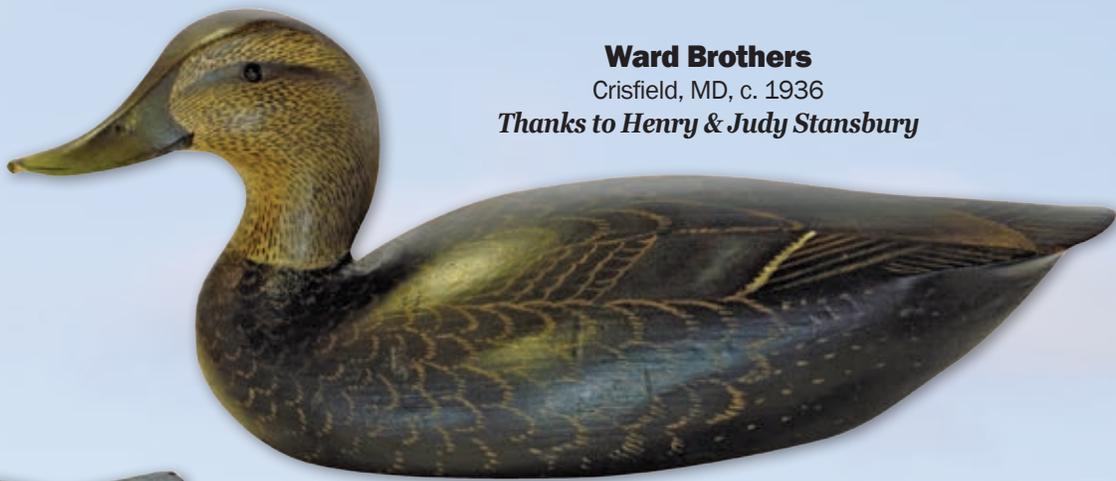
Shang Wheeler

Stratford, CT, c. 1925
Thanks to Don Kirson

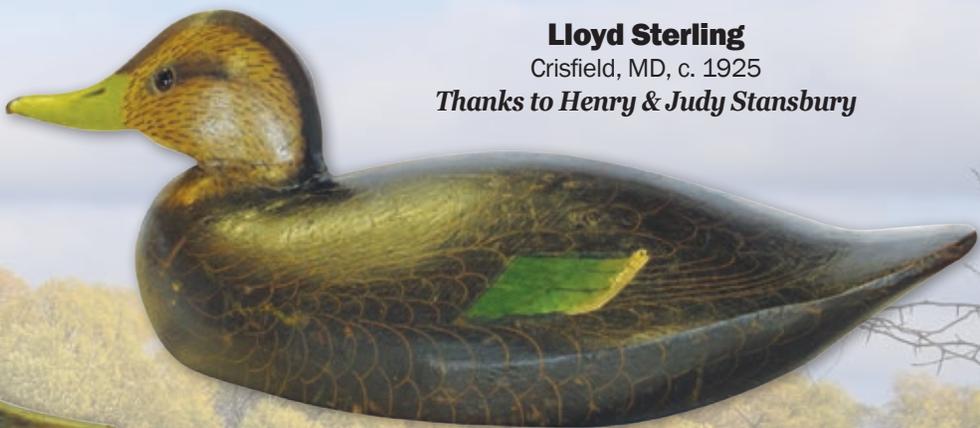


Nathan Cobb

Cobb Island, VA, c. 1890
Thanks to Don Kirson



Ward Brothers
Crisfield, MD, c. 1936
Thanks to Henry & Judy Stansbury



Lloyd Sterling
Crisfield, MD, c. 1925
Thanks to Henry & Judy Stansbury



Elmer Crowell
East Harwich, MA, c. 1920
Thanks to Chad & Christy Tragakis



Bud Jennings
Shamong, NJ, c. 1980s
Thanks to Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness



“The name is a misnomer! Black ducks are not black. The alternate name, ‘Dusky Duck’ is more descriptive.”

Eugene V. Connett (1947), Duck Shooting Along the Atlantic Tidewater

Identification

Male and female black ducks are similar to female mallards in appearance, but black ducks are darker overall, and have a dark tail. The male has a greenish-yellow bill, and the female’s bill is dark olive. In flight, they have a purple wing-patch on the upper-wing with no white edges. Their silvery-white under-wing linings contrast sharply with these ducks’ dark bodies.

Bob McGaw – miniature
Havre de Grace, MD, c. 1935
Thanks to SR Smith



R. Madison Mitchell – miniature
Havre de Grace, MD, c. 1950
Thanks to SR Smith



R. Madison Mitchell full-size
Havre de Grace, MD, c. 1930s
Thanks to SR Smith



R. Madison Mitchell – half-size
Havre de Grace, MD, c. 1950
Thanks to SR Smith



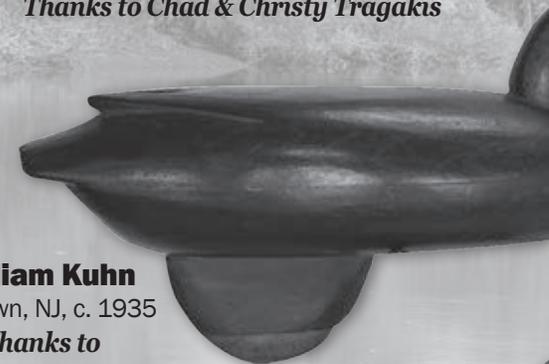
Jim Currier – miniature
Havre de Grace, c. 1950s
Thanks to John & Cindy Currier



William Heverin – high-tail style
Charlestown, MD, c. 1915
Thanks to Chad & Christy Tragakis



Lawrence McLaughlin
Edgeley, PA, c. 1950s
Thanks to Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness



William Kuhn
Tullytown, NJ, c. 1935
Thanks to Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness



Dan English
Florence, NJ, c. 1925
Thanks to Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness





Milton Watson
Chesapeake City, MD, c. 1960s
Thanks to David Farrow



Maker Unknown
Ontario, Canada, c. 1940s
Thanks to Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness



Maker Unknown - Cobb-influenced
Eastern Shore of Virginia, c. 1900
Thanks to Henry & Judy Stansbury



Downeast Decoy Factory
Freeport, ME, c. 1950
Thanks to Tom East



Wildfowler Decoy Co.
Old Saybrook, CT, c. 1945
Thanks to Bill Powell



Jim Holly - oversized
Havre de Grace, MD, c. 1910
Thanks to Tom East



Pascagoula Decoy Co.
Pascagoula, MS, c. 1950s
Thanks to Tom East



William E. Pratt Mfg. Co.
Joliet, IL, c. 1930
Thanks to Jim Trimble



Paul Gibson
Havre de Grace, MD, c. 1960
Thanks to Jim Trimble



Joe Travers - cork body
Vienna, MD, c. 1940s
Thanks to Jim Trimble



Taylor Boyd
Perryville, MD, c. 1910
Thanks to David Farrow

“The young of this species, in the early part of autumn, afford delicious eating, and, in my estimation, are much superior in this respect to the more celebrated Canvass-back Duck.”

John James Audubon (1938), Birds of America

Migration & Wintering

Black ducks are most common in the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways, with more numbers along the Atlantic coast. They are most abundant on coastal wetlands. High concentrations of black ducks are found wintering between Long Island and North Carolina. Larger lakes large river valleys also accommodate black ducks in winter.

David Farrow
Earlville, MD, c. 2017
Thanks to David Farrow



Bob Moreland
Harrisonburg, VA, c. 1980s
Thanks to Mike Mondoro



Ned Mayne
Vienna, MD, c. 1990s
Thanks to Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness

Clarence Fennimore
Wrightstown, NJ, c. 1990s
Thanks to Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness



George Strunk – full-size
Glendora, NJ, c. 1990s
Thanks to Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness



Reggie Birch
Chincoteague, VA, c. 2000
Thanks to Jim Trimble



Jimmie Vizier
Cut Off, LA, c. 1980s
Thanks to Jim Trimble



“Numbers of black ducks are killed by the gunners lying in wait for them in the route of their return from the sea to the marshes to feed after night. This kind of shooting is termed ‘dusking’ ... and it is necessary to hold the most profound silence when dusking, as they change their course or tower high at the slightest noise.”

Elisha J. Lewis (1855), The American Sportsman

Fun Facts

The oldest American black duck on record was 26 years, 5 months old.

Fossils of American black ducks, at least 11,000 years old, have been unearthed in Florida and Georgia.



Doug Jester
Chincoteague, VA, c. 1935
Thanks to Jim Trimble



Charlie Bryan – cork; oversized
Middle River, MD, c. 1960
Thanks to Jim Trimble



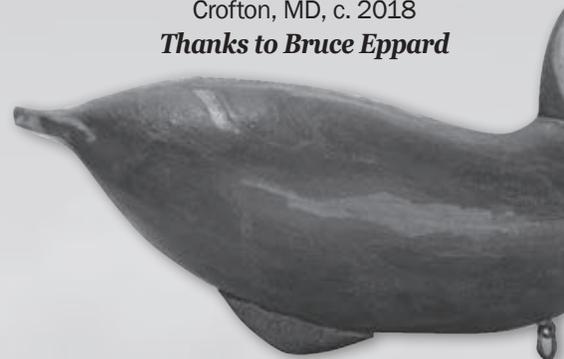
Miles Hancock – miniature
Chincoteague, VA, c. 1950
Thanks to Tom East



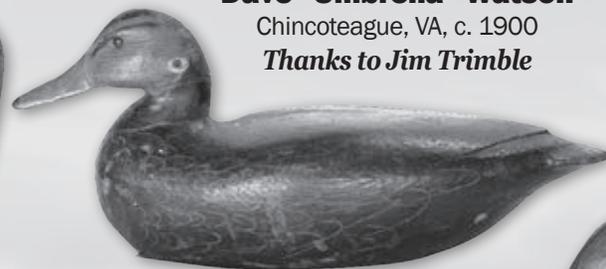
John Baker
Edgeley, PA, c. 1936
Thanks to Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness



Lum Fletcher
Havre de Grace, c. 1920
Thanks to Chad & Christy Tragakis



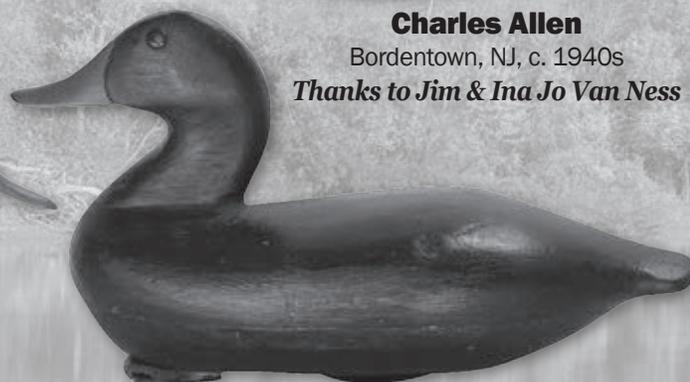
Bruce Eppard
Crofton, MD, c. 2018
Thanks to Bruce Eppard



Dave “Umbrella” Watson
Chincoteague, VA, c. 1900
Thanks to Jim Trimble



Charles Allen
Bordentown, NJ, c. 1940s
Thanks to Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness



Charles Nelson Barnard – hollow body
Havre de Grace, MD, c. 1915
Thanks to Chad & Christy Tragakis



Edson Gray
Ocean View, DE, c. 1925
Thanks to Jim Trimble



Frank Finney
Capeville, VA, c. 1990s
Thanks to Mike Mondoro

Ward Brothers
Crisfield, MD, c. 1929
Thanks to Henry & Judy Stansbury



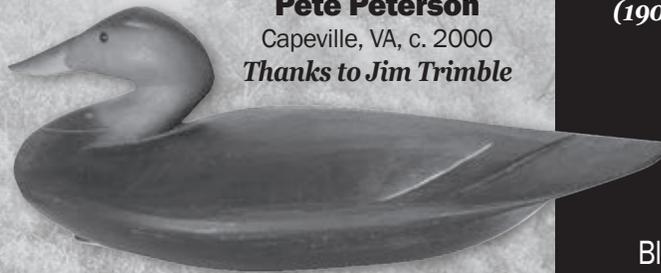
Ward Brothers – miniature
Crisfield, MD, c. 1950
Thanks to Mike Mondoro



Grayson Chesser
Sanford, VA, c. 1980s
Thanks to Mike Mondoro



Sean Sutton
Paulsboro, NJ, c. 2005
Thanks to Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness



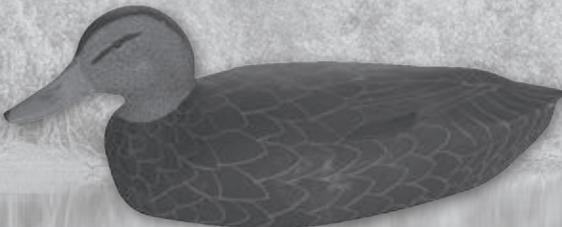
Pete Peterson
Capeville, VA, c. 2000
Thanks to Jim Trimble

George Bird Grinnell (1901), American Duck Shooting

Fun Facts

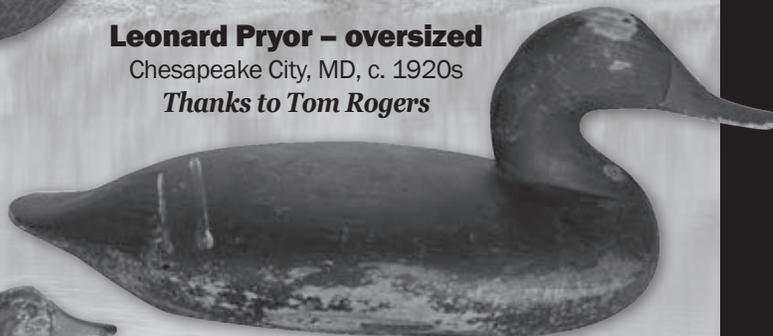
Black ducks return to the same marshes each fall and may starve rather than migrate farther south if those marshes are frozen!

As soon as their down feathers dry, newly hatched ducklings are able to leave the nest and follow their mother to rearing areas with plenty of food and cover.

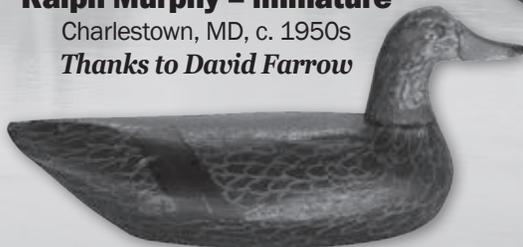


Doily Fulcher
King George, VA, c. 1990s
Thanks to Tom East

Leonard Pryor – oversized
Chesapeake City, MD, c. 1920s
Thanks to Tom Rogers



Ralph Murphy – miniature
Charlestown, MD, c. 1950s
Thanks to David Farrow



Ralph Murphy – full size
Charlestown, MD, c. 1950s
Thanks to David Farrow



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Museum News

From the Executive Director...

We have once again had a very busy summer here at the Museum, and each summer seems to build on the success of the one before. We have had several tour groups visit us this summer. Personally, I love interacting with the guests who visit us from near and far! Many are totally blown away by what we have on offer for the visitor experience, and each person is a potential advocate for the Museum.



During the 2017/18 school year we again had numerous school groups in, and over the summer I have been delighted to welcome visiting teachers and administrators who are planning visits for the 2018/19 school year. Similarly, word is getting around, and we are hosting more events such as wedding receptions, graduations, and meetings. Ducks Unlimited, for example, will have a major meeting here in October.

Unlike previous years, we stayed open on the day of the Independence Day parade and attracted a good crowd. We also had some invitation-only guests join us on the deck after dark to watch the fireworks. It was well worth the effort, and we will do this again next year.

The repairs to the Mitchell shop are paying off and have enabled us to invite guest carvers into the shop almost every weekend this summer, which is discussed elsewhere in The Canvasback. Matt Kneisley spearheaded a special project to defray some of the costs of the repairs by assembling a group of well-known volunteer carvers (Tom Benner, Josh Blanchette, John Casey, and John Eichelberger) on Sunday, July 1st to turn out 30 special decoys (canvasbacks, redheads, and bluebills) that are now for sale in the Museum Store. Get one!

We are hosting the 2nd annual Carve and Candy for Halloween, which was great fun last year for kids and adults alike. Last year's guests were very complimentary. We are also planning the Museum's 32nd anniversary celebration on January 26th, the same day as the Level show, with a reception in late afternoon after the show closes. Save the date and stay tuned for details as plans progress.

Don't forget the Museum Store for some of your Christmas shopping!

Best,
Keri

Current Exhibits @ the Museum

- **The Potomac Decoy Collectors Association's extensive new collection of over seventy black ducks in the Carvers' Gallery.**



- John Collier's magical collection of carvings by renowned Crisfield carvers Lem and Steve Ward, including the legendary Lem Ward eagle, in the library.

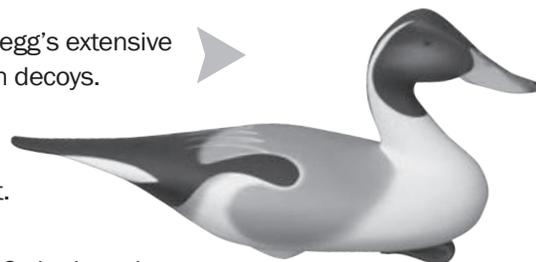
- A collection of Len Burcham's unpainted cedar miniatures with beautiful grain patterns.



- The breathtaking decorative carvings from the personal collection of master carver and 2018 Festival honoree J. Noble Mentzer.

- A rare exhibit of Carteret County and Core Sound, North Carolina decoys, courtesy of Kroghie Andresen and the Carolina Decoys Collectors Association. **Leaving November 7th.**

- A sampling from Bob Gregg's extensive collection of Dan Carson decoys.



- The Home Run Baker rig and bushwhack boat.

- A teal carved in the 1930s by Joseph Coudon of H, a gift from Pat Doherty.

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



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

- A beautiful decorative eastern blue bird carved by master carver Barb Wachter

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



Museum News



Potomac & Upper Bay Collectors Hold Joint Meeting

By Chad Tragakis



More than 45 enthusiastic decoy collectors gathered at the Decoy Museum on Sunday, August 19 as members of the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association and the Upper Bay Decoy Collectors Club held their first ever joint meeting. PDCA president Chad Tragakis and Upper Bay president John Currier welcomed those in attendance, thanked the Museum for hosting the groups and provided a brief report on their recent and upcoming club activities. The meeting

was followed by a catered luncheon, during which members of both groups got acquainted and many new friendships were formed.

A decoy display contest with three categories was held, allowing collectors to bring and exhibit birds from their collections and vote on their favorites. In a nod to the Museum, the theme category for the meeting was any R. Madison Mitchell decoy. Henry Stansbury won first place with an early working Mitchell swan. Don Kirson earned first in the Old Working Decoy category with an outstanding pair of c. 1925 raised-wing style canvasbacks by the Ward brothers. Fred Gillotte placed first in the Contemporary and Decorative category with an exquisite preening Canada goose decoy by Grayson Chesser.

Toward the end of the meeting, Tragakis and PDCA vice president David Farrow presented the Museum with a \$500 donation on behalf of the club to recognize and honor their long association. Kerri Kneisley and Pat Vincenti both thanked PDCA for more than 20 years

of support and partnership evidenced in numerous ways. One stand-out aspect of the partnership has been a series of rotating exhibits of PDCA collection material, and earlier on the day of the meeting, PDCA's wood duck exhibit was taken down and a wonderful new display of black duck decoys was installed.



Collectors enjoyed the opportunity to experience the Museum's incredible collections and interpretative exhibits of Upper Chesapeake Bay waterfowling, not to mention the incredible views of the Susquehanna Flats from the second-floor gallery. Another highlight of the afternoon was the chance to see the nearly 150-year old velvet table covering from the historic gunning scow Reckless, which Vincenti brought and carefully displayed to the delight of everyone.

All in attendance had a great time, and Tragakis and Currier are already discussing plans to hold additional joint meetings in the future. For more information on the PDCA, contact: chad.tragakis@gmail.com. For more information on the Upper Bay club, contact: johncurrier90@yahoo.com. You can also find both clubs on Facebook.





Museum News



2nd Annual Carve & Candy



The inaugural Carve & Candy event was such a success last year, despite heavy rain, that we are planning the second annual Carve and Candy to be held on Sunday, October 28th from 4:00 to 6:00. Each of the Museum's three galleries will be decorated in a different Halloween theme with Museum volunteers distributing candy to the costumed children.

The R. Madison Mitchell shop will be open, so children can design pumpkins for carving and paint a silhouette in the shape of a duck, pumpkin, ghost, or bat. For the brave, there will be a rubber duckie dunkin' game for additional goodies. As the sun goes down and the frost is on the punkin, fire pits and a marshmallow roast will provide an opportunity for fellowship and warmth. Kids, parents, and grandparents – bring the whole family for something fun and different at Halloween!



Museum News



If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it.

~ Margaret Fuller (*American journalist, critic, and women's rights advocate*)



As soon as the weather warmed up in the spring, Matt and Kerri Kneisley leveraged off their success last summer and began a new series of weekend events in the refurbished R. Madison Mitchell decoy shop. The shop, at its original location on Washington Street, had the attributes of a classic atelier, or artist's workshop, where a master and several assistants or apprentices would work together. It was a stepping stone between the 19th and 20th centuries where Civil War-era skills were acquired, enriched, and passed on.



Resonating with the Susquehanna Flats that begin only a hundred yards away, the Decoy Museum preserves the Mitchell shop as a spawning and breeding ground for a new generation of carvers who learn from 21st century masters, many of whom learned their skills in the Mitchell shop decades ago. One such carver is Capt. Bill Collins, pictured at right, who was a protégé and business partner of Mr. Mitchell, later acquired the decoy business from him, and subsequently sold the shop itself to the Decoy Museum. Bill conducted a head-study class in July that was so well received he agreed to an encore in September, much to the delight of aspiring carvers.



Other guest carvers over the summer months have included Tom Benner, Josh Blanchette, Len Burcham, John Casey, John Eichelberger, Neil Geisel, Jonathan Grove, Joey Jobes, Matt Kneisley, and Rich Moretz. In addition to the classes and workshops, non-carvers were able to see the original Mitchell shop, watch the carvers in action, learn first-hand how a decoy is made, and hear tales from the golden days of Upper Bay decoy making.



We thank all our guest carvers not only for their support of the Decoy Museum but for their vital contribution to transmitting these traditions and cultural aesthetics to future generations.





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COME BROWSE



While They Last!!!

Over the past year we have made extensive repairs to the R. Madison Mitchell shop, which have enabled us to initiate new programs and invite guest carvers into the shop almost every weekend this summer.

Matt Kneisley spearheaded a special project to defray some of the costs of the repairs by assembling a group of well-known volunteer carvers (Tom Benner, Josh Blanchette, John Casey, and John Eichelberger) on Sunday, July 1st to turn out 30 special antiqued decoys that are now for sale in the Museum Store.



Sales proceeds are earmarked for the Mitchell shop repair costs.



Bluebills are sold out, but canvasbacks and redheads are still available.

Support the Mitchell shop

by adding one to your collection or getting one for your special collector!

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Third Prize:

Black Duck
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Drawing December 8th at 6pm during Candlelight Tour

For tickets call **410.939.3739**

or email information@DecoyMuseum.com

(additional tickets will be available at the Museum)



Museum News

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:

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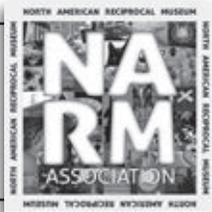
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Our members are a very close-knit and loyal community!

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, and a subscription to *The Canvasback* magazine, invitations to special events, and discounts in the Gift Shop.

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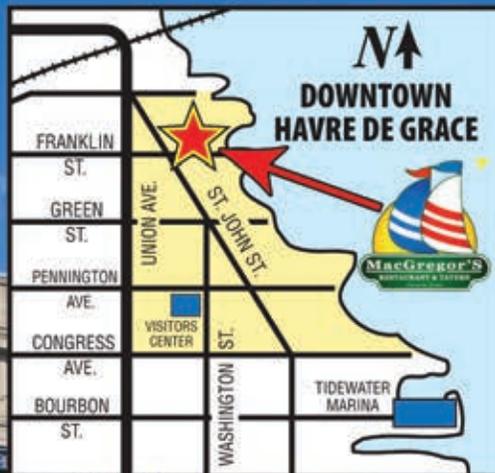
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