

# The Canvasback

---

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

---

Summer 2017  
Vol. 27 No. 3

\$3.00



## WOODIES

**THE UNMISTAKABLE WOOD DUCK**

*Stunning in Nature, Stunning in Art*



410-939-3565

927 Pulaski Highway • Havre de Grace, MD 21078

## Serving Seasonal Local Favorites

Fried Oysters • Soft Shell Crabs • Rockfish  
Crab Cakes • Crab Imperial • Seafood Combo

BAYOU "GO" CARRY OUT — 410-939-3565

---

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

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

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

Guests can enjoy dining in one of our dining rooms, decorated with prints and decoys of local carvers.

Remember the spirit of Havre de Grace's race-track. The Graw, as it is captured on a mural in our banquet room.

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





The 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 may be tax deductible.

FUNDED IN PART BY

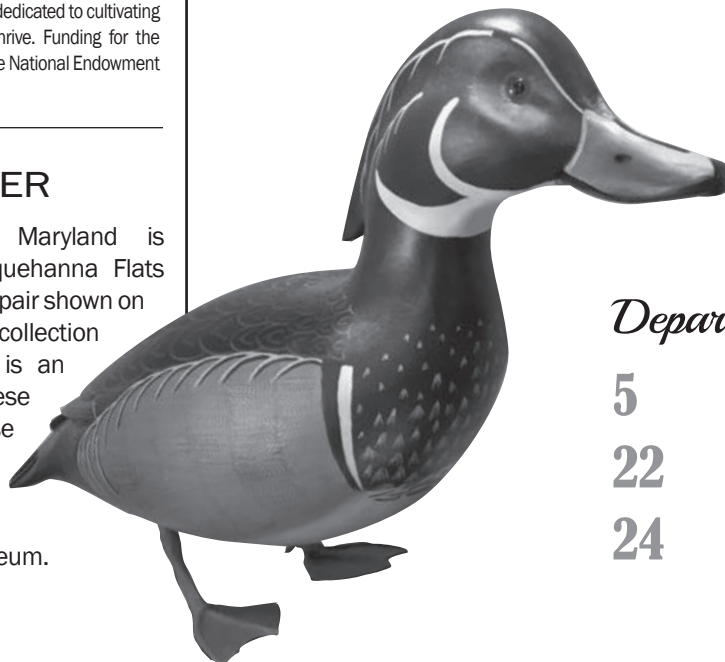
**Harford County • City of Havre de Grace  
Maryland State Arts Council**



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.

## ON THE COVER

Clarence Webb of Elkton, Maryland is remembered as the first Susquehanna Flats carver to make wood ducks. The pair shown on the cover (circa 1960) from the collection of Chad and Christy Tragakis is an excellent example of his art. In these pages Chad tells about these beautiful birds with examples of decoy art from the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association's current exhibit at the Decoy Museum.



## can•vas•back

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

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

## Contents

### Features

- 6** Annapolis Decoy Show
- 7** 2017 Festival Acknowledgements
- 11** East Coast Decoy Collectors Swap Meet
- 13** Woodies  
*The Unmistakable Wood Duck*
- 21** J. Evans McKinney 2017 Old Decoy Contest
- 23** Captain Harry Jobes Praised
- 27** 36th Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival Re-cap



### Departments

- 5** From the President
- 22** Museum News
- 24** Museum Members

# Fresh Seafood & Steaks

OPEN 11 AM DAILY FOR LUNCH & DINNER

BREAKFAST, SAT & SUN

9AM-12PM

GLUTEN-FREE MENU



## Tidewater Grille



HAVRE DE GRACE  
MARYLAND

*Live Entertainment Weekly*

### Happy Hour

**MON-FRI 3PM-7PM**

Like us on Facebook at  
*'The Tidewater Grille on the Water'*

**WEDDING RECEPTIONS & REHEARSAL DINNERS**

**CATERING**

**PRIVATE BANQUET ROOM**

**PRIVATE DOCKING FOR CUSTOMERS**



RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED

www.tidewatergrille.com • 300 Franklin Street • 410-939-3313 • 410-575-7045





215 Giles Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
**410.939.3739**

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

#### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Pat Vincenti • *President*

Michael E. Tarquini • *Vice President*

Ralph C. Hockman • *Treasurer*

James W. Carroll, Jr. • *Secretary*

Allen J. Fair • *Member-at-Large*

Charles E. Packard

Todd Pauliny

**Madelyn Mitchell Shank (1928-2015)**

Stephen Smith

#### ADVISORY DIRECTORS

John Case

Jeff Coats

David & Joan Hagan

John Hostetter

Jim Pierce

Jerry Rutkowski

William Veasey

#### CONSULTANTS

Matt Kneisley

C. John Sullivan, Jr.

## The Canvasback

#### EDITOR

James W. Carroll, Jr.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Eleanor Coale

C. John Sullivan, Jr.

Chad Tragakis

Jim Trimble

#### GRAPHICS

Anne Fullem Design

#### PRINTING & MAILING

AlphaGraphics of Bel Air

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

## From the President...

Dear Museum Members,

Dreary weather greeted the Decoy Museum's 36th annual Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival on May 5-7th and persisted through the weekend, but the final tally has shown it to have been another productive fundraising event.

This year's Festival Honorary Chairman was Bill Hickson from Cordova on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Bill is a familiar face at wildfowl carving events and has turned out some beautiful decorative carvings. We wanted to recognize his talent and the very significant contributions he has made to this unique folk art form and our waterfowling heritage.

We try to keep the focus on Upper Chesapeake Bay decoys, and our loyalists regard our Festival as one of the best in the region because it remains so traditional. Jim Trimble's usual glowing review of the Festival is combined in these pages with Terri Shepke-Heppner's photos.

Jim Trimble, Joe Engers, and Decoy Magazine once again sponsored the J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest, named in honor of the late decoy carver, collector, and historian. The contest organizers always attract some real treasures, and the award winners are now on display in the Museum's Carvers' Gallery. Don't miss them!

Many generous sponsors, devoted staff, and volunteers put in long hours and great effort to pull off a successful Festival, and I want to extend a big "Thank you!" for everything that every single person did. We thank Principal James Johnson and the Harford County Public Schools for their support at the Middle School. Mayor Bill Martin and the Havre de Grace City Council are always 100% behind us. Exhibitors always rave about great spreads for the Friday night exhibitor reception and the Sunday breakfast buffet provided by Dan and Cindy Lee at MacGregor's Restaurant.

Our great friends and supporters at the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association have provided us with a breathtaking collection of nearly seven dozen wood ducks that are now on display in the Carvers' Gallery. A selection of them illustrates a fascinating history in this issue written by the PDCA's Chad Tragakis.

We just received word that the Harford County Office of Economic Development has renewed our tourism-related grant, an important source of funds for the Museum. We are grateful for their support and that of County Executive Barry Glassman. Executive Director Kerri Kneisley completed the Harford Leadership Academy in June, which should help enormously in terms of networking and increased knowledge of how Harford County works.

Thank you to all of our supporters who are working every single day to improve the Decoy Museum and keep it growing!

Sincerely,

Pat Vincenti



# Annapolis Decoy Show 2017

by Jim Trimble

The 2nd Annual Annapolis Decoy Show sponsored by the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association was held Sunday, June 11th at the spacious and well-lit Annapolis Elk's Lodge. Sixty-four tables, filled with mostly vintage decoys, greeted large mid-morning crowds who were escaping high 90s oppressive heat. Admission to this Sunday-only show was free. Visitors, as well as vendors, were primarily from the nearby Maryland, Virginia



and Washington, DC areas. Many of the Maryland vendors were from Maryland's upper Chesapeake Bay region and the Eastern Shore. Vendors were mostly seasoned, including a few PDCA seasoned collectors, who took this opportunity to thin out their collections, such as longtime Maryland collector/vendor Don Dean whose table was filled with decoys made by Pete Peterson, Madison Mitchell, Charles Bryan, and Paul Gibson to name a few. Early-on, Dean used to frequent these makers' shops and buy directly. One decoy that garnered much attention was an early OP Paul Gibson preening goose; an iconic decoy to the Chesapeake Bay collector. Virginia collector/vendor Doiley Fulcher was another seasoned collector, who seized the opportunity to thin out a few birds. His table was loaded with old gunners, most from the Maryland/Virginia area. There was also a good handful of decoys from the Back Bay as well as Fulcher's native North Carolina coastal area.

Maryland vendor/collector Howard Bauer along with son Jr., displayed primarily Maryland decoys that included many Rock Hall birds along with an assortment of oyster stuffs.



Southern Maryland vendor/collectors Chris & Vivian Worch's table displayed primarily Chesapeake Bay with a few Pete Peterson birds and miscellaneous shorebirds.

Maryland collector/vendor Dick Larrimore, besides a vendor table of mostly old Chesapeake Bay birds for sale, displayed about three dozen Annapolis Area (Anne Arundel County) bluebills, most from the first and second quarter of the last century, or earlier. Some of these well-made smallish unique eye-appealing birds have been identified as to maker, family of makers and/or gunning rig used, with many more unidentified. These decoys were the forerunners of the birds that made up local rigs. They were later replaced by rigs of lathe-turned production decoys that were being mass produced by a number of makers at the top of the Chesapeake Bay.

Contemporary vendor/carvers Bob Biddle (Pennsylvania) and Butch Wagoner (Maryland) displayed newly made gunning birds with some of Biddle's birds made in gunning styles from yesterday. Blue ribbon carvers in the mix included Maryland carvers Ray Whetzel, Rich Smoker, Eddie Wonzy, Harry Morrison, Dave Farrow, and Bruce Eppard with Farrow's and Eppard's tables also containing numerous vintage decoys for sale. Eppard, who in the past, has won Ruddy Duck and Coot category national competitions at the Ward Museum's "World" competitions, displayed several mounted gunning style ruddy decoys with large swimming webbed feet that sold quickly.

Several local waterfowl-related museums occupied display tables. PDCA President Chad Tragakis's table, besides old gunning decoys, displayed PDCA information and historical milestone material; and he was pleased with new membership that signed on; some purchasing and donning PDCA club hats. Tragakis noted that online and media publicity worked; and that several attended with bags of decoys for free appraisal; one with



the show ad from a local Annapolis newspaper in hand. Among the more noteworthy of the decoys to be identified and valued was a small rig of Charles Bryan geese. Tragakis, who also serves as Show Chairman, had to be pleased with vendor quality as well as the crowds that attended. He also acknowledged the collector and dealer community for their strong support in spreading the word and publicizing the show.

Plans are already being made for next year's show return to this venue. Most vendors with whom I spoke were pleased with the day's crowds and reported good sale activity.

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



# Thank You!

## 2017 Festival Acknowledgments

### Carving Competitions

**Dale Heitkamp  
Scott Green  
George Williams**

### Exhibitor Reception & Breakfast

**Jeannie Vincenti  
MacGregor's Restaurant**

### Festival Chairman

**Patrick Vincenti**

### Festival Coordinator

**Margaret Jones**

### Finance

**Ralph Hockman  
Mindy Elledge**

### Food & Beverage Service

**Route 40 BBQ  
Terri Hobson  
Mr. Dave's Ice Cream Truck**

### Gift Shop

**Dorene Dorney  
Stephanie Kennedy  
Steve & Patty Smith**

### Havre de Grace Activity Center

**Timothy Getz**

### Hospitality Room

**Margaret Jones**

### Information Tables

**Pat Hockman**

### Marketing

**Kerri Kneisley**

### Membership

**Stephanie Kennedy**

### Middle School Principal

**James Johnson**

### Museum Director

**Kerri Kneisley**

### Museum Registrar

**Virginia Sanders**

### Old Decoy Contest

**Jim Trimble  
Joe Engers**

### Security

**Havre de Grace  
Police Department**

### Silent Auction

**Joanne Calder  
Nora Bye**

## Festival Sponsors

### **Adams Chevrolet**

### **Chesapeake Rent All**

### **Compton Retirement Services**

### **F C Clifford, Inc. G H Nitzel, Inc.**

### **Hostetter Agency**

### **JLR/Rutkowski**

### **Seidenberg Protzko**

### **Smith Prothero**

### **Stamper Electric**

### **Winter Gardens**

## Festival Volunteers

**Shawn Benner • Josh Blanchette • Al & Mary Boehly  
Lisa Bratcher • Nancy Bratcher • Leonard Burcham  
Nora Bye • Joanne Calder • Jim Carroll • Barbara Coakley  
Mary Cowan • Lancaster Chapter of Delta Waterfowl  
Shannon Dimmig • Joe Engers • Allen Fair • Scott Green  
Dale Heitkamp • Ralph & Pat Hockman  
Flip Jennings & the Delta Dogs • Bob & Ian Jones  
Matt Kneisley • Henry & Geri Krotee • Chris Martin  
Virginia & Lloyd Sanders • Gary Sargable  
Steve & Patty Smith • Mike Tarquini • Chad Tragakis  
Clo & Jim Trimble • Pat & Jeanne Vincenti • George Williams**

Educational Programs & Tours  
of the Decoy Museum are

# FREE

to school classes, including  
your home schooled children!

**Tours can be tailored to the curriculum  
and different age/grade levels.**

Book your tours early, call  
Margaret Jones at

**410.939.3739**

or email the Museum at

**information@decoymuseum.com**



**Reserve  
Your  
Museum  
Tour Today!**



# Gift Shop

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Gift Shop offers a wide range of gifts from collectible to whimsical and everything in between.

**Books • Blankets • Plush Toys  
Coffee & Travel Mugs • T-shirts  
Christmas Tree Ornaments  
Wind Chimes & So Much More!**

*Get a Decoy Museum hat or mug  
& help spread the word.*

There is something for everyone!

**COME BROWSE**



## DECOY MAGAZINE

- Carver profiles
- Features on carving regions, fish decoys, and sporting art
- Complete auction coverage
- Classified sections for buying, selling, and trading
- National calendar of all decoy shows
- Full-color photographs of over 80 decoys

<input type="checkbox"/> ONE YEAR, SEVEN ISSUES .....	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> TWO YEARS, FOURTEEN ISSUES .....	\$72.00
<input type="checkbox"/> CANADA, ONE YEAR (U.S. FUNDS).....	\$55.00
<input type="checkbox"/> CANADA, TWO YEARS (U.S. FUNDS).....	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> FOREIGN SUBSCRIBERS, PER YEAR (AIRMAIL) .....	\$75.00
<input type="checkbox"/> SAMPLE .....	\$9.95

Send Check Or Money Order Payable To:  
DECOY MAGAZINE  
P.O. Box 787 • Lewes, De 19958 • 302-644-9001  
Visa And Mastercard Accepted  
Decoymag@Aol.com • www.decoymag.com



# Promote Your Business

## by Supporting the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum & Harford County Tourism

The Decoy Museum's new Business Memberships are coupled with advertising in ***The Canvasback***.

### Business Members Receive:

- Advertising Space (four quarterly issues)
- A Subscription to ***The Canvasback***
- Updates on Events & Attractions
- Special Discounts for Facility Rentals
- Complementary Admission Tickets to the Decoy Museum  
*Each ticket entitles the holder to a 10% discount in the Museum Gift Shop – give them to your employees and business associates.*

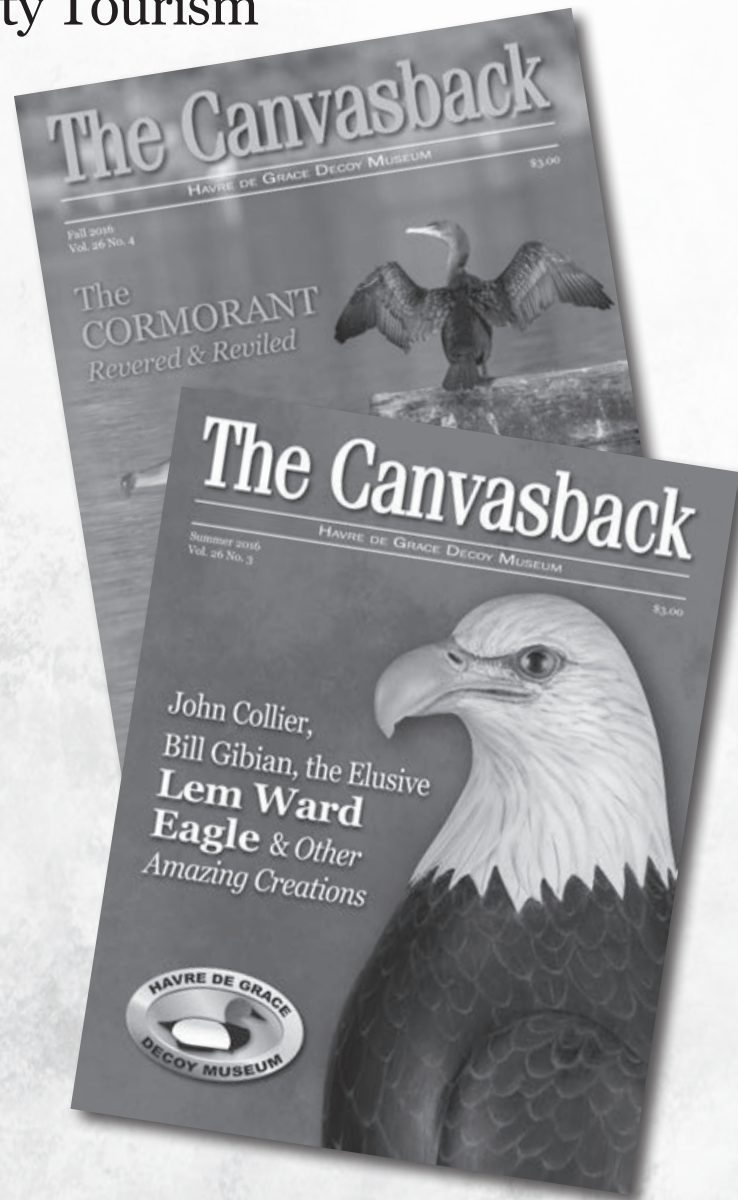
Supporter	\$175	Business card ad 5 admission tickets
Donor	\$325	Quarter-page ad 10 admission tickets
Patron	\$625	Half-page ad 20 admission tickets
Benefactor	\$1,200	Full-page ad 40 admission tickets

*The membership rates quoted are for grayscale ads. For color ads (Patron and Benefactor only), please add a 40% surcharge. Graphic design services are available for an additional charge.*

### Circulation:

The Canvasback has a mailed distribution of 1,000 copies each quarter with a concentration in the Havre de Grace area.

Harford County.....	35%
Cecil County .....	8%
Elsewhere in Maryland .....	21%
Pennsylvania .....	10%
Delaware.....	7%
Other states .....	19%



## Subscribe!

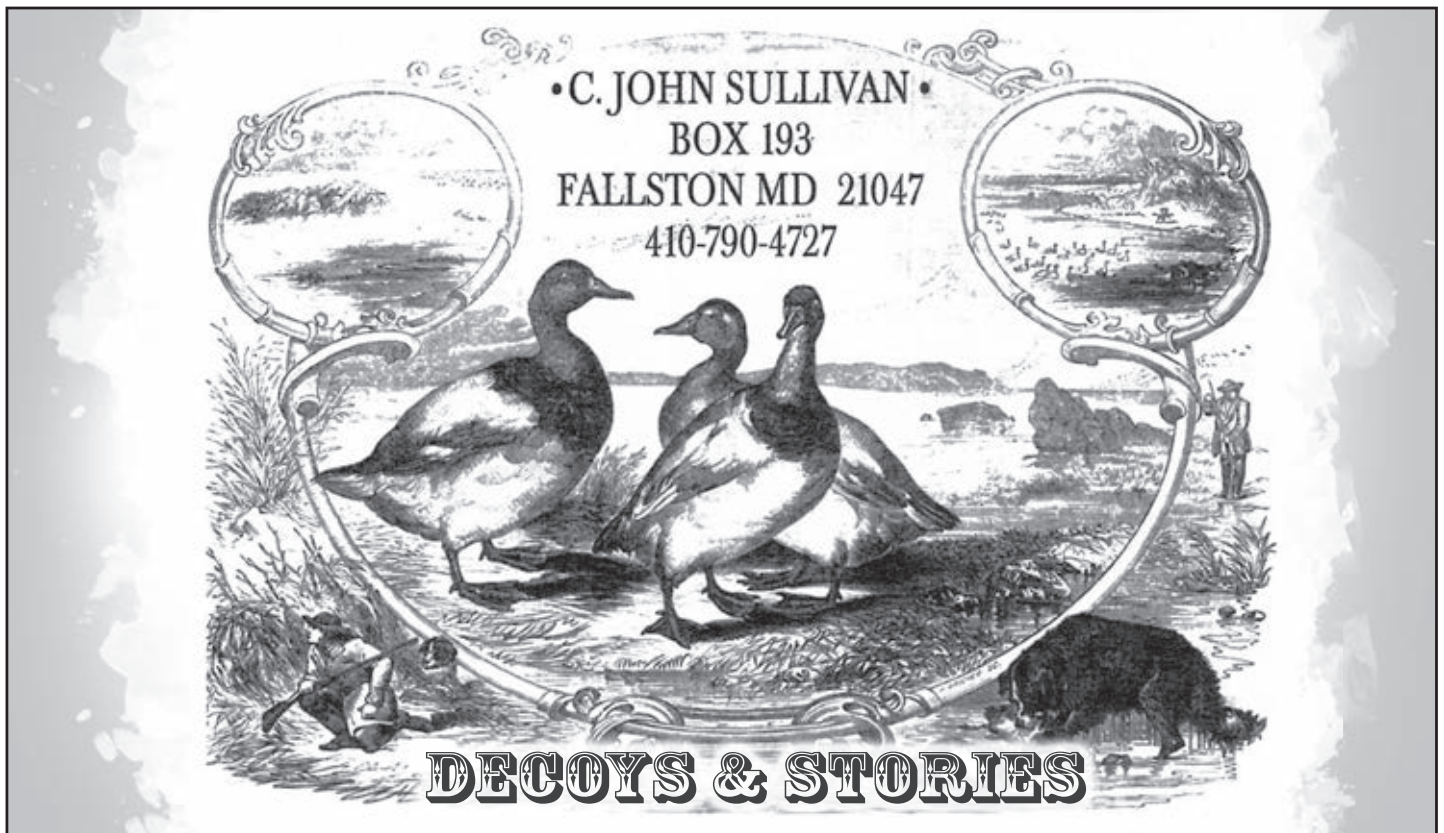
Non-advertisers can also support the Decoy Museum as a Subscriber

**Four Quarterly Issues for \$25**

*Always have the latest issue of The Canvasback in your break room, waiting room, or reception area.*

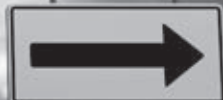






Are all signs pointing to a comfortable retirement?

**Retirement**  
NEXT EXIT ↗



**Janney**

Trusted Advisors for Generations

WWW.JANNEY.COM | © 2015, JANNEY MONTGOMERY SCOTT LLC | MEMBER: NYSE, FINRA, SIPC

**Chances are, you still have questions.**

- What sources of income will I rely upon in retirement?
- Will my income and assets last for my lifetime?
- What expenses can I expect?

The Janney Retirement Test Drive provides a picture of your spending, income, and assets projected throughout retirement—so you can understand how investment and spending decisions you make today can impact your tomorrow.

**CONTACT US FOR A  
RETIREMENT TEST DRIVE TODAY!**

**TODD PAULINY**

First Vice President/Wealth Management  
Stewart & Pauliny Investment Group  
of Janney Montgomery Scott LLC  
443.307.8009 | 877.897.9451 | tpauliny@janney.com  
116 Hays Street | Bel Air, MD 21014



# East Coast Decoy Collectors Swap Meet

by Jim Trimble



*Virginia collector, carver & restorer Spencer Tinkham examining wide-body Ira Hudson canvasback. It was one of the many fine Virginia decoys that collector/vendor Gary Campbell had for sale.*

The 19th annual buy-sell-swap was held Thursday through Saturday, April 6-8 at the St. Michaels Motor Inn in St. Michaels, Maryland. Mixed weather of rain, cold and wind prevailed the first two days with Mother Nature delivering mild-sunny bluebird skies for day three. There were over 60 vendor rooms as well as a couple handfuls of tail-gaters offering primarily old decoys along with a mixture of other waterfowl related and oyster related stuffs. As collectors arrived, greeted each other, and unpacked; commerce was instantaneous. ECDC President Tim Sieger's welcoming letter to membership noted this club's humble beginnings 25-years earlier with the early annual meetings being held in Cape Charles, Virginia. Crowds were down from years' past despite publicity in local Eastern Shore newspapers; but those that attended seemed to be buying. And as these shows go, there was a lot of activity between vendors.

Club members were encouraged to bring along a few favorite items for display. New Jersey vendor/collectors Jim & Debbie Allen's four-decoy display featured a John English widgeon pair, circa 1880s, a H.M. Shourds mallard, circa 1920s, and a John Dawson canvasback, circa 1920s. All three decoys were in original paint with fine patina. Maryland vendor/collector John Collier's unique display featured six ornately carved walking sticks (canes) by Maryland carver Lloyd Cargile and Virginia carver Frank Finney. As if to compliment, Collier also displayed bird trees by these two carvers with branch limbs filled with finely carved songbirds. Maryland collector/vendors Ronnie & Kim Newcomb's room display featured nine decoys (buffelheads, redheads, canvasbacks and a swan) from little known St. Michaels carver Robert Lambdin; all carved during the last quarter of two centuries back. Lambdin's business card advertised that he built canoes, boats, sink boxes and decoys. Maryland collector Don Kirson's three-bird Ward Bros. display, all original paint, featured a 1932 black duck from Bishops Head Gun Club, a 1936 style mallard hen, and a 1928 hump-back beaver tail style pintail. The birds were spectacular!

Friday evening's reception at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum featured Potomac River decoys collected and owned by members of the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association. Decoy signage told of Potomac River waterfowling from the early colonial period up until the 1950s with some decoys featuring brands from prominent gun clubs that proliferated the river during the first two quarters of the last century. Gunners, besides industry leaders and notables of the day, included US Presidents, Supreme Court Justices members of both houses of Congress, and military brass. Oysters, shrimp plus other food and drink were provided courtesy of Henry & Judy Stansbury and the auction firm of Guyette & Deeter whose nearby headquarters displayed decoys for their forthcoming Pheasant Run decoy auction. After three days of "duckin," most vendors shut down late day Saturday to attend the club's annual cookout that featured fine food, drink, live music, warm sunshine and comradery. President Tim Sieger addressed membership, acknowledging those who contributed to making another successful swap meet event. After clean-up, and with full stomachs and mellow glow, membership returned to their rooms, maybe for one last transaction, and/or to pack for the trip home. Most vendors with whom I spoke were pleased with this three day weekend event.



*New Jersey collector/vendor Allen Linkhorst, Connecticut vendor/collector Tom Reiley, and Virginia collector Ray Daly "talking ducks."*



*Maryland collectors Macey & Art McCloskey with an Ed "One-Arm" Kelley canvasback*



*Maryland collector Don Kirson's favorite decoy display of three Ward Bros. original paint decoys featuring a 1932 black duck from Bishops Head Gun Club, a 1936 style mallard hen, and a 1928 hump-back beaver tail style pintail.*



# Downsizing? Changing your collection?



If you have decoys, wildlife art, and waterfowl 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 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?

**Contact the Decoy Museum Today to Join the Flock**

**410.939.3739**

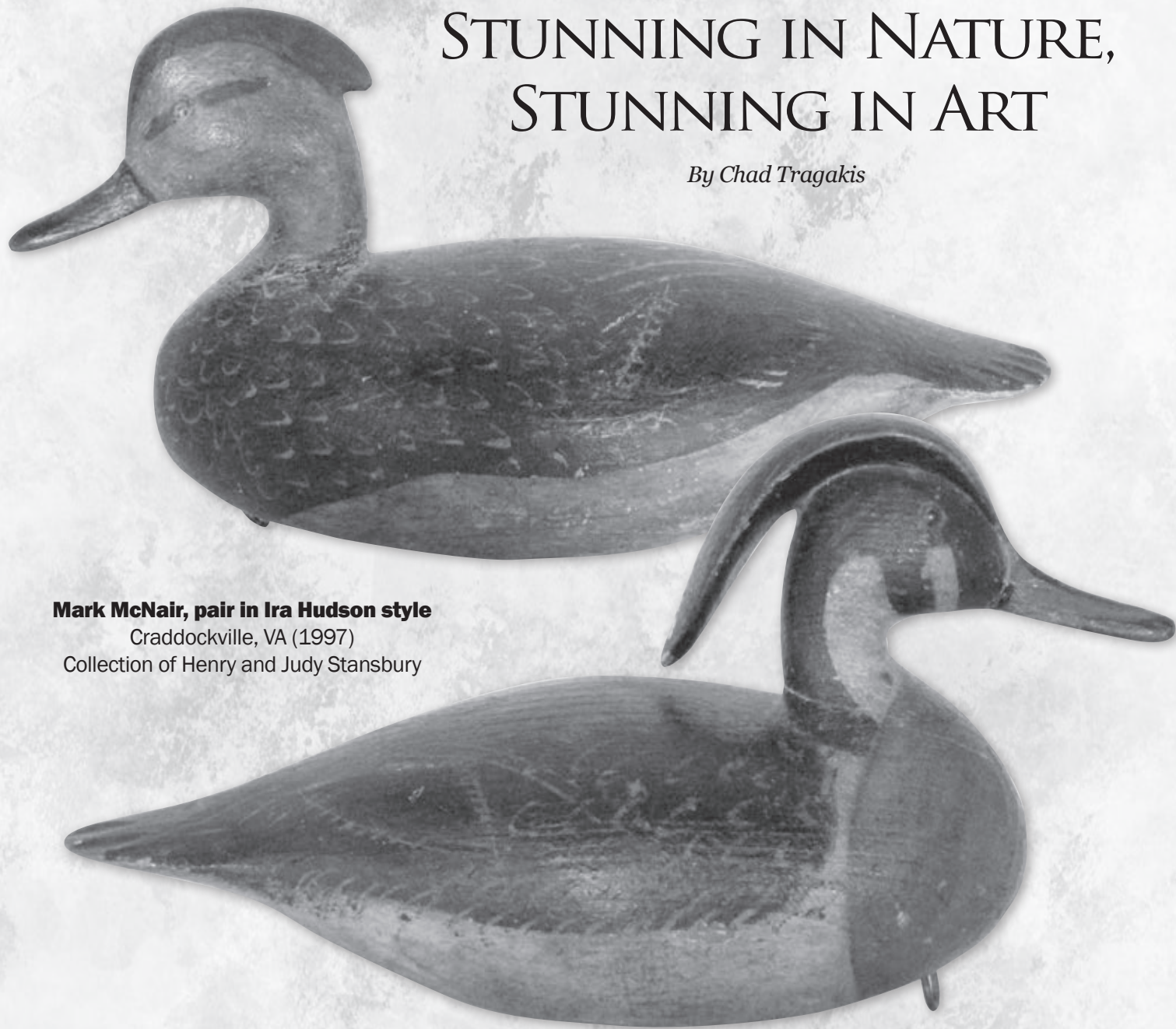


# Woodies

THE UNMISTAKABLE  
WOOD DUCK

STUNNING IN NATURE,  
STUNNING IN ART

*By Chad Tragakis*



**Mark McNair, pair in Ira Hudson style**

Craddockville, VA (1997)

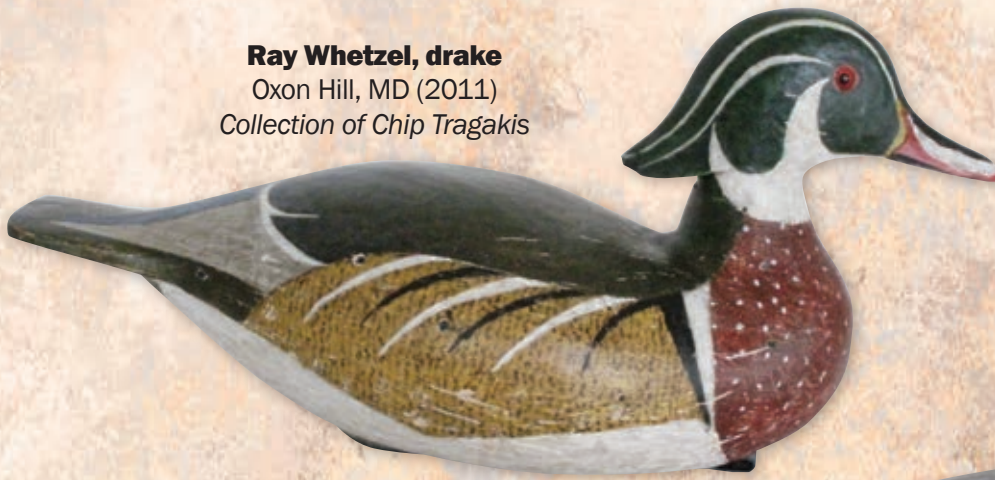
Collection of Henry and Judy Stansbury

“At this moment, when my heart is filled with delight, the rustling of wings comes sweeping through the woods, and anon there shoots overhead a flock of Wood Ducks. Once, twice, three times, have they rapidly swept over the stream, and now, having failed to discover any object of alarm, they all alight on its bosom, and sound a note of invitation to others yet distant.”

*John James Audubon, 1835*



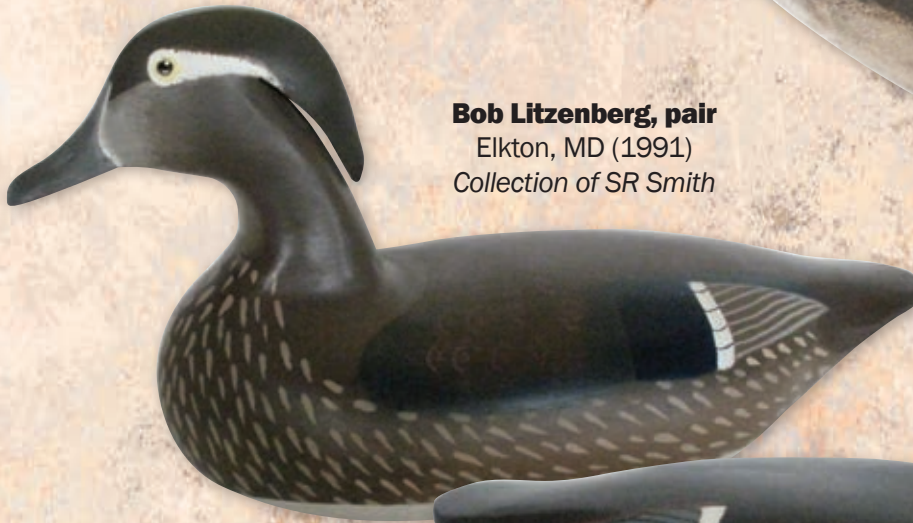
**Ray Whetzel, drake**  
Oxon Hill, MD (2011)  
Collection of Chip Tragakis



**Bruce Eppard, hen**  
Crofton, MD (2016)  
Collection of Katie Tragakis



**Bob Litzenberg, pair**  
Elkton, MD (1991)  
Collection of SR Smith



**Madison Mitchell, pair**  
Havre de Grace, MD (1977)  
Collection of SR Smith





**Madison Mitchell and Bill Collins, cork pair**

Havre de Grace, MD (1983)

*Collection of SR Smith*



**Madison Mitchell (attributed), miniature pair**

Havre de Grace, MD (circa 1960s)

*Collection of SR Smith*



**Milton Watson, pair**

Chesapeake City, MD (1981)

*Collection of David Farrow*





Wood ducks – in the natural world, they are one of the most colorful and beautiful of all waterfowl; they are equally stunning and captivating when skillfully and artistically reproduced in wood and paint. If any Upper Chesapeake Bay area decoy makers working during waterfowling’s “golden age” (from the 1850s up through the 1950s) ever tried their hand at crafting working wood duck decoys, none appear to have surfaced. Their absence is perhaps understandable given the nearly universal emphasis on divers, namely canvasbacks, redheads and bluebills. But, at the same time, it would be surprising if no one ever attempted to carve them given their beauty and colorful appeal. It’s likely that decorative wood ducks were fashioned in the Susquehanna Flats region at least toward the end of the golden age of waterfowling, as full size and miniature examples dating from the 1940s-1950s have surfaced in other parts of the Chesapeake Bay.

With their elaborate, spectacular colors and bold, striking patterns, there is good natured disagreement among birders, ornithologists and waterfowlers as to whether the woody or its close relative, the Mandarin duck, is the most beautiful of all waterfowl. Ornithologist Arthur Cleveland Bent wrote of them in the 1923 volume of his *Life Histories of Familiar North American Birds*, “What a beautiful creature is this Beau Brummel among birds.”

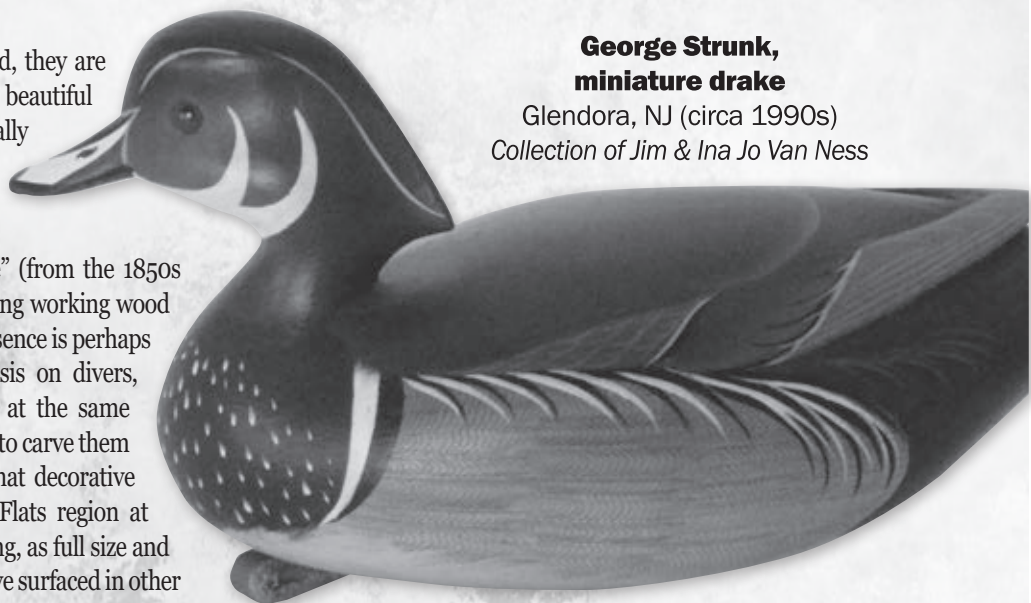
Their Latin name, *Aix sponsa*, translates loosely to “a duck dressed for a wedding,” and the description is most fitting for this sartorially elegant bird. Their common name refers to the species’ preference for nesting in the hollows of trees. Besides “woody,” the beautiful wood duck enjoys a number of other descriptive nicknames among hunters including “summer duck,” for the fact that it breeds and remains so far south during that season. In fact, during the summer months, woodies can be found in every state east of the Rockies as well as throughout the Pacific Northwest. It is called the “acorn duck” for one of its favorite foods, “Carolina duck,” “tree duck” and “swamp duck” for some of its favored haunts and habitat, and “squealer” for the unmistakable piercing “weeek” calls hen wood ducks often make. Other nicknames include “bridal duck,” “plumer,” and “wood widgeon.”

Waterfowl biologists estimate that wood ducks were once among the most common and prevalent of all duck species in the Atlantic Flyway. This great abundance combined with their excellent quality as table fare, wide distribution and availability across a number of seasons, led to intensive market hunting pressure throughout the 1800s. That overharvesting coupled with significant loss of the wood duck’s favored bottomland forest habitat due to heavy logging and the drainage of swamps, nearly led to the extinction of the species by the early 1900s.

By the turn of the last century, America’s old growth forests – from the east, to the south to the Midwest – were all but gone. In 1901, naturalist, anthropologist, writer and waterfowler, George Bird Grinnell, famously sounded the alarm during the nation’s fledgling conservation movement, noting of wood ducks that: “Being shot at all seasons of the year they are rapidly becoming very scarce and are likely to be exterminated before

## George Strunk, miniature drake

Glendora, NJ (circa 1990s)  
Collection of Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness



long.” Fortunately, special protections were afforded to woodies by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Only two species of ducks were singled out in the law – eiders and wood ducks. The season for woodies was immediately closed and would remain so for the next 23 years.

In 1937, the U.S. Biological Survey, forerunner to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, introduced the concept of artificial nesting boxes and over the next several decades, erected thousands of them, first in the Midwest and later, in wooded wetlands across the country. The beautiful birds began to rebound. By the 1942 season, hunters in the Atlantic Flyway were able to take one wood duck per day as part of their bag. However, because of population fluctuations and continued declines in some areas, many states kept restrictions in place until 1959, but limited hunting was permitted. Populations increased steadily since 1966 and remain strong today. The wood ducks’ recovery is often cited as a textbook example of waterfowl conservation – a strong model of what’s possible when common sense regulations are combined with innovative approaches to habitat protection and preservation.

Woodies are a medium sized duck, ranging in length from 17-21 inches long. Drakes have a relatively thin neck, extending into a boxy, curving crested head with a flowing hood shape, unique among all ducks. Their glossy, iridescent green head, often so dark it appears almost black, is accented with white stripes. They have a bright orange-red bill with accents of yellow, black and white, and their flaming red eyes surround a prominent black pupil. They exhibit a chestnut breast spotted with white, a bottle green colored back and buff yellow sides with super fine pin-striping. Their upper wing exhibits a deep blue speculum. Wood duck hens, though not as bright or bold as the drakes, are also gorgeous, and may well be the most beautiful of all female ducks. They feature soft gray, light brown bodies with a white-speckled breast, a slightly darker olive-green gray upper body accented with a blue speculum, blended with purple, white and black feathering. Their heads display a white eye ring and their gray-black bills are framed in white.

Woodies are a uniquely North American duck and, primarily, a species found in the United States. Their breeding range encompasses the



entire eastern half of the U.S., from Nova Scotia south to Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, and west to the Great Plains. Their wintering grounds extend along the eastern seaboard south. Fall migration usually begins in October, extending into November, with spring migration running from March through April. Along the Atlantic Flyway, wood ducks are

year round residents of the countless creeks, rivers and marshes near thickly wooded country. They are found in the freshwater wetlands, ponds and forested shorelines of the Chesapeake Bay watershed most of the year, except for a short period in the dead of winter.

Though they are true woodland birds, they cannot make their own nest cavities. Instead, they will often reside in natural tree hollows or occupy nesting holes excavated and deserted by woodpeckers or expanded and abandoned by squirrels. They will often use the same nests year after year. Unlike other ducks, woodies have sharp, specialized claws for gripping tree bark and perching on branches. Woodies are also the only North American duck that typically produces two broods in one year.

Wood ducks are classic omnivores, eating various aquatic vegetation (sago pondweed, duckweed, algae), seeds, fruits, insects, invertebrates, fish, amphibians and crustaceans. They feed by dabbling, shallow diving and upending as well as grazing on waterside vegetation. They famously love acorns, chestnuts, beechnuts and other nuts when available and will forage in fields for grain. As Audubon observed: "The food of the Wood Duck, or as it is called in the Western and Southern States, the Summer Duck, consists of acorns, beech-nuts, grapes, and berries of various sorts, for which they half-dive, in the manner of the Mallard for example, or search under the trees on the shores and in the woods, turning over the fallen leaves with dexterity. In the Carolinas, they resort under night to the rice-fields, as soon as the grain becomes milky. They also devour insects, snails, tadpoles, and small water lizards, swallowing at the same time a quantity of sand or gravel to aid the trituration of their food."

Wood ducks have long been a favorite with hunters owing in part to the fact that their flesh tastes similar to that of redhead. Audubon, who reported seeing them offered for sale in markets from Boston to South Carolina along the east coast, and as far west as Ohio and Kentucky, said of the summer duck that: "The best season in which to procure these birds for the table is from the beginning of September until the first frost, their flesh being then tender, juicy, and in my opinion excellent." They were also prized for the bright color and variety of their feathers, which were used for decorative and practical purposes – from the millinery trade and women's fashions to taxidermy and trout flies for fly-fishing.

It's been said that woodies fly so fast they often don't see decoys quickly enough to react to them. Others claim they are among the easiest of ducks to decoy. A rig of 6-10 wood duck

decoys is usually effective and no more than a dozen are ever needed. A small rig of mallards or other puddle duck decoys works just as well, as woodies will easily alight into almost any spread. Arthur Cleveland Bent wrote of the wood duck that: "It will come readily to live decoys or even to well-made wooden decoys, if properly handled; it is such a swift flier and so clever in avoiding places that it has found to be dangerous that considerable skill and strategy is necessary to hunt it successfully." Pass shooting has long been a popular method for hunting the wood duck but jump shooting is also effective. Regardless of the method employed, early in the season and early in the day are good and ancient rules of thumb as they seem to fly best at first light.

Antique working wood duck decoys are extremely scarce in relation to those of other species, but they were fashioned by a few makers in certain gunning regions. Again, since woodies would readily stool to nearly any species of decoy, few early makers took the time or went to the trouble of creating them. Wonderful examples were made by Elmer Crowell, Joe Lincoln, Shang Wheeler, Ben Schmidt, Miles Hancock and the Ward Brothers, among others, in the U.S., and by Tom Chambers, Davey Nichol and Ken Anger, among others, in Canada. A host of exceptional vintage wood ducks by talented but unknown makers also grace some of the finest collections in both countries. And, while rarely produced by any decoy factories, beautiful wood ducks were made by the Mason, Stevens and Wildfowler companies.

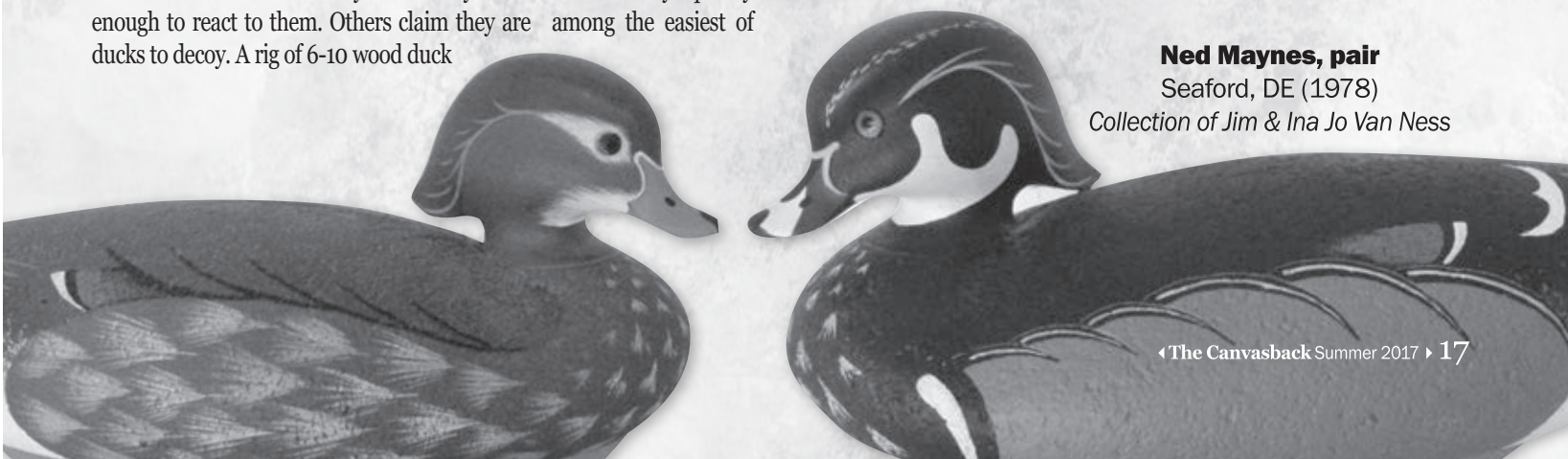
Among collectors of decorative and contemporary decoys, wood ducks are a perennial favorite. Over the past 50 years, they have been produced by modern master carvers from every region of North America. The very best of these elegant sculptures demonstrate the absolute heights of artistry that is possible when wood and paint are combined with a creative vision and precise, skillful execution.

While no Upper Chesapeake Bay wood ducks were made or used as working decoys during the golden age of waterfowling, of special interest to collectors is the fact that several notable carvers of working decoys who were active during the golden age did begin to make them at the request of collectors and in response to growing demands for purely decorative decoys in the 1960s. In fact, because of their colorful beauty and relative scarcity, collectors of old working decoys with little interest in decorative pieces often make an exception to include a pair of these later wood duck decoys on their shelves to sit proudly among the antique gunning birds. Since contemporary wood duck decoys are made for collectors, they are typically made and sold in pairs, often with one or both of the birds in a sleeping or preening position. This lends the already beautiful birds an even greater degree of sculptural elegance and refinement.

### **Ned Maynes, pair**

Seaford, DE (1978)

Collection of Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness





**Ira Hudson, miniature pair**

Chincoteague, VA (circa 1920s)  
Collection of Henry & Judy Stansbury



**Grayson Chesser, drake**

Jenkins Bridge, VA  
(circa 1980s-1990s)  
Collection of Mike Mondoro

**Allen Purner, drake**

Elkton, MD (1997)  
Collection of David Farrow



**Ira Hudson, miniature pair**

Chincoteague, VA (circa 1920s)  
Collection of Henry and Judy Stansbury



## “OVER THE TREES LIKE A METEOR...”

Early American naturalist and ornithologist, John James Audubon, was among the first to document wood ducks and wood duck hunting in our young nation. In the descriptive *Ornithological Biography* accompanying his 1835 opus, *Birds of America*, he writes of the woody that:

“This beautiful species ranges over the whole extent of the United States, and I have seen it in all parts from Louisiana to the confines of Maine, and from the vicinity of our Atlantic coasts as far inland as my travels have extended. It also occurs sparingly during the breeding-season in Nova Scotia; but farther north I did not observe it. Everywhere in this immense tract I have found it an almost constant resident, for some spend the winter even in Massachusetts, and far up the warm spring waters of brooks on the Missouri. It confines itself, however, entirely to fresh water, preferring at all times the secluded retreats of the ponds, bayous, or creeks, that occur so profusely in our woods. Well acquainted with man, they carefully avoid him, unless now and then during the breeding-season, when, if a convenient spot is found by them in which to deposit their eggs and raise their young, they will even locate themselves about the miller’s dam.”



“The flight of this species is remarkable for its speed, and the ease and elegance with which it is performed. The Wood Duck passes through the woods and even amongst the branches of trees, with as much facility as the Passenger Pigeon; and while removing from some secluded haunt to its breeding-grounds, at the approach of night, it shoots over the trees like a meteor, scarcely emitting any sound from its wings.

In the lower parts of Louisiana and Kentucky, where they abound, these regular excursions are performed by flocks of from thirty to fifty or more individuals. In Several instances I have taken perhaps undue advantage of their movements to shoot them on the wing, by placing myself between their two different spots of resort, and keeping myself concealed. In this manner I have obtained a number in the course of an hour of twilight; and I have known some keen sportsmen kill as many as thirty or forty in a single evening.

This sport is best in the latter part of autumn, after the old males have joined the flocks of young led by the females. Several gunners may then obtain equal success by placing themselves at regular distances in the line of flight, when the birds having in a manner to run the gauntlet, more than half of a flock have been brought down in the course of their transit. While passing through the air on such occasions, the birds are never heard to emit a single note.”



**Clarence Fennimore, pair**  
Wrightstown, NJ (1998)  
*Collection of Jim & Ina Jo Van Ness*

**Rob Capriola, pair**  
Chico, CA (2004)  
*Collection of Drew Hawkins*

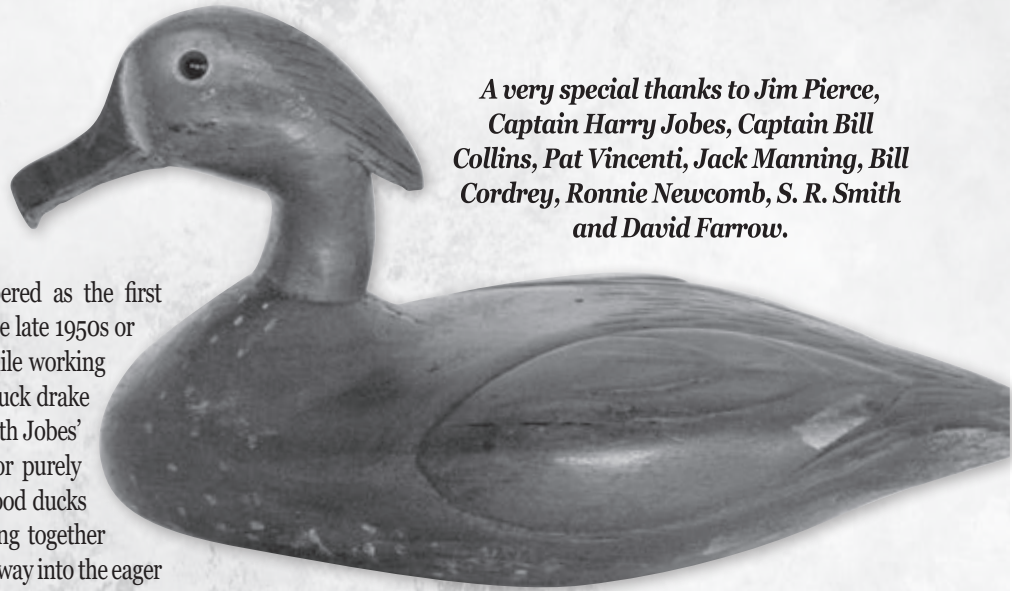


**Zack Ward, pair**  
Crisfield, MD (circa 1980s)  
*Collection of Tom East*





**Maker Unknown**  
Quebec, Canada (circa 1940s)  
*Collection of Drew Hawkins*



*A very special thanks to Jim Pierce,  
Captain Harry Jobes, Captain Bill  
Collins, Pat Vincenti, Jack Manning, Bill  
Cordrey, Ronnie Newcomb, S. R. Smith  
and David Farrow.*

Clarence Webb of Elkton in Cecil County is remembered as the first Susquehanna Flats carver to make them, beginning in the late 1950s or early 1960s. Shortly thereafter, Captain Harry Jobes, while working in Madison Mitchell's shop, made and painted a wood duck drake which he mounted on a lamp base. Mitchell, delighted with Jobes' experiment and keenly aware of the growing market for purely ornamental decoys, decided to make a small group of wood ducks in the traditional Havre de Grace hunting style. Working together with Jobes, they made 12 pairs, which quickly found their way into the eager hands of their best customers.

It's important to realize the amount of time it took to paint those early wood ducks, relative to the much simpler patterns used on other species. In addition to the complicated patterns, intricate details, and additional colors required, makers had to wait for each subsequent layer to dry completely before starting the next. Those who were there remember that it could take more than 45 minutes just to paint the head, though later innovations reduced this to about 15 or 20 minutes. The saving grace was that the high demand and limited output allowed Mitchell to charge an unheard of \$50 per pair for the woodies, at a time when he was getting only \$7 a pair for most other species.

After the original 12 pairs, there are varying accounts as to precisely when the next groups of wood ducks were made in Mitchell's shop and exactly how many were produced in each. The consensus seems to be that a group of approximately 54 pairs was made in 1974, followed by a much smaller group in 1976 and 1977, and then another 60 pairs made between 1978 and 1979. Some later wood ducks made in the 1980s, having passed through the hands of both Mitchell and his protégé Captain Bill Collins, who purchased Mitchell's shop in 1979, bear the signatures of both men. Early on, Mitchell used a decorative bluebill pattern for his wood duck bodies. In 1976, he switched to a slightly different style based on a new pattern made especially for wood ducks. In 1983, Mitchell and Collins also made approximately 20 gunning style wood ducks from cork, which feature pine heads and solid pine bottom boards.

While still working in Mitchell's shop in the late 1960s, both Jobes and Jim Pierce experimented with wood duck decoys and produced their own individual examples. Pierce held most back for collectors but remembers selling a small rig of three drakes to a group of hunters from Pennsylvania who wanted to use them to gun a small pond on their property. Beginning in the early 1970s, Jobes made several other standing wood ducks, often mounted on driftwood or lamp bases, including at least one example with a hollow body and raised wing carving, similar to the style first used by Clarence Webb. Because they were painted so infrequently, there is tremendous variation in the colors and paint patterns on these early woodies. Jobes often used an expressive "crow's feet" paint pattern on the breast.

Charlie Joiner, Charlie Bryan and Clarence "Titbird" Bauer were among the other old time makers from the Havre de Grace school who made wood

ducks in their later years. Joiner made two distinct styles of woodies – a streamlined Havre de Grace model and a completely different flat bottomed style, showing the Crisfield influence of the Ward Brothers. This later style by Joiner and a model by Bryan both feature wooden keels running the length of the decoy's bottom. By the 1970s, nearly every commercial maker in Harford County was producing wood duck decoys. Interestingly, while they were never used for gunning during the golden age of duck shooting on the Susquehanna Flats, hunters have used small rigs of Joiner, Jobes, Pierce, Bryan and Collins wood ducks in more recent decades, and reportedly with great success.

Across the river in Cecil County, in addition to Clarence Webb, Milton Watson of Chesapeake City made a few wood duck decoys, which feature finely sculpted bodies with semi flat bottoms. Bob Litzenberg of Elkton made a handful of wood duck pairs in his later, more decorative style. Most of these special pieces remain closely held by members of his family. Allen Purner, also of Elkton, carved wood ducks in a variety of styles, sizes and poses including flyers mounted onto wall plaques. Melvin Elwood "Moke" Boyd of Perryville also created some beautiful wood ducks, though not until much later in his life.

John H. "Jack" McKenney (1889-1973), originally from North East and later from Chestertown, made some of the Chesapeake's earliest wood duck carvings, turning out a number of miniature pairs beginning in the 1950s. It's interesting to note that the wood ducks by Webb, Boyd and McKenney and some of Purner's woodies feature raised wing carving, a characteristic not typically found on Upper Chesapeake Bay decoys. Whether this is simply a coincidence or shows some shared Cecil County influence or inspiration is unknown, but worthy of further investigation.

Today, decoy collectors, duck hunters and bird-loving naturalists can all take great satisfaction in the fact that the wood duck has truly come back. We can also hope that the case study of their recovery might serve as an example and a way forward for other species of waterfowl. It would have been a real tragedy if the woody were relegated solely to paintings and photographs, to the memories of those who had once seen them, or like the rare, surviving Labrador duck decoys, to the wooden examples on our shelves. We are so fortunate to be able to enjoy the wood duck in all its vivid glory and colorful splendor – both on our shelves and especially in the natural world around us.



# J. Evans McKinney 2017 Old Decoy Contest - *At a Glance*

Eighteen contestants entered over 83 competition birds with eight separate entrants winning in this ten-category vintage competition event. The three-judge panel of seasoned collectors were Phil Ryser, John Sullivan, and Chris Worch, who recused themselves in categories where they had an entry.



The winning birds with their ribbons are currently on display at the Decoy Museum where they will remain through at least the summer. ***Come see these fine pieces of folk art!***

John Collier's diminutive upper Bay teal hen with carved eyes, bill delineations and nostrils in mellow original paint condition won first honors in the Unknown category, as well as Best in Show. It was the day's double Blue Ribbon winner!



PLACE	CATEGORY	OWNER	DECOY ENTERED
<b>Best in Show</b>	Best Unknown Carver	<i>John Collier</i>	Upper Bay, teal hen
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Best in Show</b>	Best Eastern Shore (non-Ward) Diving Duck	<i>Ron Lewicki</i>	Ed Parsons, bufflehead hen
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Best in Show</b>	Best Ward Bros. Puddle Duck	<i>Rod Benjamin</i>	Wigeon
	Best Harford County Bluebill	<i>John Collier</i>	Jim Holly
	Best Shorebird	<i>Mort Kramer</i>	Harry V. Shourds, red knot
	Best Virginia Goose	<i>Ron Lewicki</i>	Barrier Island, unknown carver
	Best Taylor Boyd	<i>Lloyd Sheats</i>	Canvasbacks
	Best Jim Currier	<i>Lloyd Sheats</i>	Canvasbacks
	Best Rock Hall Puddle Duck	<i>S.R. Smith</i>	John Glenn, pintails
	Best Cecil County Bluebill	<i>Chad Tragakis</i>	Will Heverin



# Museum News

## From the Desk of...

I cannot believe that another Festival is now behind us – my, how the year has flown by! I am so grateful for the many sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, and of course guests who make our annual Festival such a spectacular event time and again. We look forward to seeing you next year, if not before!



We are proud to again partner with the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families in serving as a Blue Star Museum for the summer of 2017. We will join more than 2,000 museums nationwide who offer free admission to active duty military personnel and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Thanks to grant funding received last year from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, we will be receiving some new lighting in our 2nd floor gallery this summer. While the specifics are not yet determined, we will also be installing some new temporary exhibits in our 2nd floor gallery. We are always looking for ways to improve your experience here at the Decoy Museum!

Since my last writing, we have submitted our Self-Study for the American Alliance of Museum's (AAM) Museum Assessment Program. This process was very enlightening for us, as we looked at our policies and procedures, and we are anxious for our AAM site visit (which will occur mid-July) and the consequent feedback and constructive criticism. This is just another example of how we are striving to improve your Museum!

Finally, I had the honor of graduating from the Harford Leadership Academy in June. This was an AMAZING experience! I look forward to continued growth of both the relationships established and of myself and to continued involvement with the Academy's Alumni Association. Many thanks to the Board and Staff for allowing me the time to participate in this venture!

Wishing you a fantastic summer,

*Kerri*

Kerri Kneisley, Executive Director

## Current Exhibits @ the Museum

- **The Potomac Decoy Collectors Assoc. has brought us a stunning collection of colorful and elegant wood ducks now on display in the Carvers' Gallery!**



- 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.

- John Collier's collection of Bill Gibian's carvings.



- 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.



- The "Gunning the Flats" exhibit
- The "What is a Decoy?" exhibit
- "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.

- Our new display cases in the Carvers' Gallery now contain the extraordinary collection of winning decoys from the J. Evans McKinney 2017 Old Decoy Contest. These are a "must see" for any decoy lover.





# Museum News



*(L-R) Patrick Vincenti, Mary Ann Lisanti, Samantha Harris, Greg Pizzuto, Patrick McGrady, Barry Glassman, “Coach” Slutzky, Bob Cassilly, Capt. Harry (seated) and sons Joey, Bob, and Charles. Photo by Christine M. Sullivan*

## CAPT. HARRY JOBES PRAISED

On May 22, 2017, Decoy Museum President Patrick Vincenti, who also serves District E as a Harford County Councilman, accompanied by his legislative aid Samantha Harris, Harford County Council President Richard C. “Coach” Slutzky, and legendary Aberdeen Decoy carver Capt. Harry Jobes attended the Aberdeen City Council meeting. The stated purpose was to observe the city’s 125th anniversary and to present to the City Council a proclamation and a special plaque that he and Capt. Harry had prepared with a Harry Jobes miniature swan mounted on it.

But there was a covert secondary objective once Capt. Harry was lured into the City Council Chambers. In the wings were sons Bob, Charles, and Joey Jobes, Harford County Executive Barry Glassman, State Senator Bob Cassilly, Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti, Aberdeen Mayor Patrick McGrady, and Executive Director of Visit Harford! Greg Pizzuto.

Together they presented Capt. Harry with a proclamation recognizing and thanking him for his 50 years of very significant contributions to Aberdeen, Havre de Grace, and Harford County. Pat Vincenti recalled that Capt. Harry travelled several times a year from Maine to Florida and as far west as Chicago and Louisiana promoting his decoy business. But in those travels, he never missed an opportunity to also promote Harford County and his two home towns. Pat summed it up by saying that “Harry was the Department of Tourism before we had one. He was the Department of Economic Development before we had one. And because of that he brought thousands of people here.”

Capt. Harry and his own duck dynasty of Bob, Charles, and Joey have been equally loyal and very significant contributors to the formation, growth, and renown of the Decoy Museum. We add our recognition and thanks to the very special tribute that Pat arranged for this very special man.

The Results of the 2017 Carving Competition  
from the  
**Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Show**  
are now available as a printable PDF on our website

**[DecoyMuseum.com/CarvingCompetition](http://DecoyMuseum.com/CarvingCompetition)**

Call us at 410-939-3739 if you don’t have Internet access.







# 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:

## **FAMILY**

Stephen & Patricia Anderson  
John Antal  
Allan Anthony  
Alfred & Mary Boehly  
Richard Bush  
Charles & Sara Canova  
Thomas & Margherita Coudon  
David & Ruth Ferretti  
Louis & Phyllis Friedman  
Robert Grothey  
Waynette & Irvine Hayward  
Nate Heess  
George Henneberger  
David Jack  
Gregory Kuester  
William Lawton  
Rod & Elaine Lockard  
Ronald & Carolyn Mathias

Tim McEntire  
Michael Mondoro  
Harold Mueller Jr  
Robert & Debbie Nickerson  
Greg Pabst  
Russell & Marcy Perrin  
Richard Petti  
Dean Reisinger  
Oscar Schulz  
Stephen & Patricia Smith  
Randy Tyler  
James Van Ness  
Ronald Walls  
Ray & Joyce Watkins

## **INDIVIDUAL**

Steven Allen  
James Barton  
David Beck

Dave Bennett  
Thomas Berger  
Rodney Boggs  
John Boyce  
Chuck Boyle  
Steven Brown  
George Brown Sr  
Carl Cerco  
Walter Clevenger  
Tyler Coleman  
John Cox  
Dean Dashner  
Russell Daughtridge  
Denise Deel  
David deFernelmont  
Robert Downer  
Dale Druyor  
Tom East  
John Eichelberger Jr.  
Ronald Felker

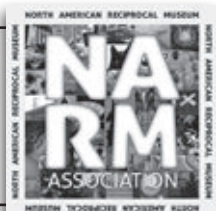
Edward Fennimore  
Richard Fox  
Caleb Frey  
B. Jean Gamble  
Neil Geisel  
Dean Graham  
Jim Graves  
John Grove III  
Kittie Hake  
Howard Hall  
Robert Hess  
Carol Itter  
Jim Jacobs  
Jean Johnson  
Franklin Kalinowski  
Raymond Kessler  
Carl Kilhoffer  
Ronald Knight  
Robert Krajewski  
Elizabeth Langley

Timothy Livezey  
Daniel Lozano  
John Manning Jr  
Harry Meck  
Jeffrey Megargel  
David Nelson  
Chris Pitman  
Charles Randle  
Jeffrey Reider  
David Rust  
John Shallcross  
Charles Sheppard  
Bud Shilling  
Alan Sklaney  
Joe Sufczynski  
Carl Taylor  
James Tolmie  
Graham White  
Rodney Wilson  
Drew Winn

John Wykpisz  
John Yablonski

## **NARM**

Berkley Cone  
Lawrence Heck



The North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association<sup>sm</sup> is one of the largest reciprocal membership programs in the world with 924 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, and 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**





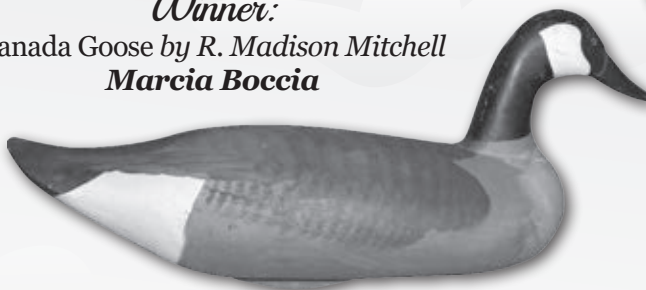
# Spring 2017 Raffle Results



*Winner:*  
\$500 Cash  
**John Shallcross**



*Winner:*  
Canada Goose by R. Madison Mitchell  
**Marcia Boccia**



*Winner:*  
Northern Pintail Drake  
by R. Madison Mitchell  
**Todd Pauliny**



*Winner:*  
American Coot  
by Charlie Bryan  
**Charlie Lawson**





*There is no limit to  
your imagination!*



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



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

**Charlie Packard**

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

9B Aberdeen Plaza  
Aberdeen, MD 21001

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

**Join the  
Conversation**

**facebook**

[facebook.com/decoymuseum](https://facebook.com/decoymuseum)






The readers of Harford Magazine have voted the Decoy Museum the **"Best Museum of 2016"**. Thanks to all of our staff, members, and other supporters who helped make this possible!



# Terilyn Artworks

WHERE ART MEETS TECHNOLOGY

Terri Shepke-Heppner

410.530.9711

TERILYNARTWORKS@COMCAST.NET

WHEN IT COMES TO QUALITY, VALUE AND SELECTION, NO ONE ELSE COMES CLOSE

**Terilyn Artwork ... HAS IT ALL!**

OTIS IRWIN



*Ontario Printing Company*

PRINTING OF ALL KINDS

410-939-5896  
410-939-7887 FAX

551 FOUNTAIN ST.  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD.

Email: ontarioprinting@verizon.net

**Rory G. White**  
Financial Advisor

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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

## PIERCE'S DECOYS

Collector & Carver of  
**GUNNING DECOYS**  
MADE IN THE FINE UPPER BAY TRADITION



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

**(410) 939-2272**

**alphagraphics®**

increase your reach

**Ryan Stockson**

Owner

Office. 410.838.6740

Mobile. 443.417.8365

rstockson@alphagraphics.com

**Lyons Pharmacy**  
*Prescription Medicines*

*Gifts • Candles • Souvenirs • Home Decor*

**410-939-4545**

328 St. John Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
www.lyonspharmacy.com



**ANNE FULLEM  
DESIGN**

*Effective Visual Communication*

Anne Fullem

945 Nena Avenue, Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
anne@annefullem.com  
443.243.7219 • www.annefullem.com

## VINCENTI DECOYS



www.vincentidecoys.com

**Store - Jeannie**  
353 Pennington Ave.  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
**410-734-7709**

**Decoy Shop - Pat**  
303 West Lane  
Churchville, MD 21028  
**410-734-6238**



36TH ANNUAL

# Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

by Jim Trimble

photography by Terri Shepke-Heppner



This year's annual festival was held May 5-7 on a wet cloudy three-day weekend with heavy storm warnings that seemed to impact vendor participation as well as show attendance. Bill Hickson, a retired farmer from Cordova, Maryland, who carves waterfowl and songbirds, served as Honorary Chairman.

Havre de Grace is a small waterfront community at the top of the Chesapeake that faces the famed Susquehanna Flats and its rich beds of sago and celery grasses. These grasses, before diminished by farm waste runoff flowing down the Susquehanna River, fed millions of noisy and hungry migratory waterfowl that arrived there each fall. It was a major wintertime feeding habitat along the Eastern Flyway that attracted the early market hunter; and later sport gunners. Notables from a variety of backgrounds gunned there, including US Presidents. Local watermen became legendary for their ability to kill ducks, provide guide services, and produce fine decoys. The early decoys that have survived are sought after by today's collectors. Current day decoy makers are making wooden ducks similar to those produced by early makers. However, today's wooden birds are made primarily for the shelf. Havre de Grace with rich waterfowl history and numerous documented decoy makers, is today's self-proclaimed "Decoy Capital of the World."

This festival is the primary fund raiser for the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Most of the annual visitors to Havre de Grace this first weekend in May are there to celebrate duck, and everything else associated with duck from duck calling, dog handling, contemporary carvings, decoy vendors, decoy displays, waterfowl related auctions and an old decoy contest. Festival activities, besides the museum that features many historically significant waterfowling related displays, were held in two other venues. The festival issue of the Museum's Canvasback magazine served as a roadmap as to times and places of events. The magazine also



*Pennsylvania collector and Lancaster County Ducks Unlimited Chairman Dave Eller holding an Evans McKinney canvasback while he is talking ducks with decoy maker Charles Jobes, who is holding one of his hi-neck canvasbacks. Jobes is a long-time contributor of decoys to DU fundraisers. You can visit DU films to see a recent video on the Jobes Family of Havre de Grace.*

noted the museum's recently opened wood duck display, courtesy of the Potomac Decoy Collectors association, that features these elegant wooden birds, created by over 30 different carvers.

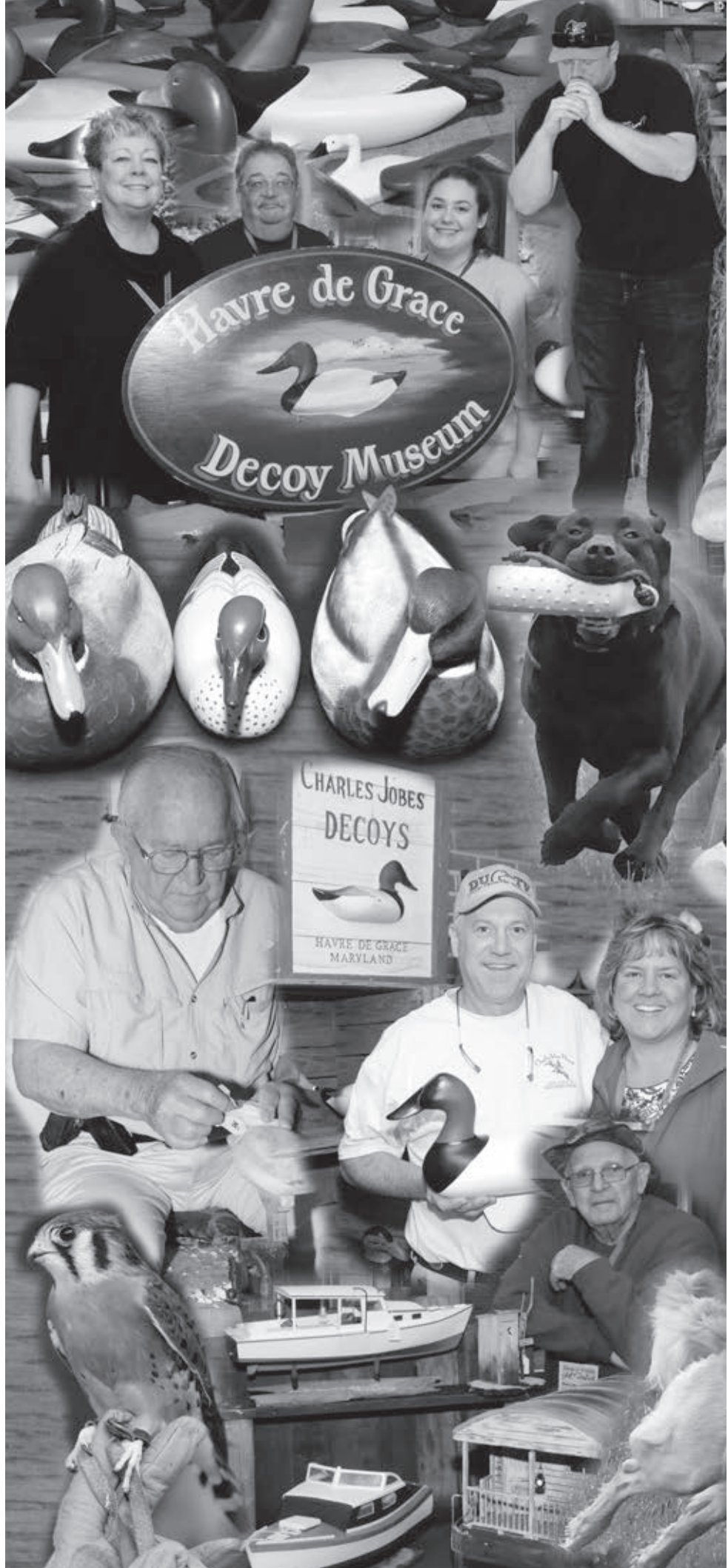
The Havre de Grace Middle School was the venue for the decoy vendors as well as for the J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest. Capt. Harry Jobes was noticeably missed as a vendor this year. Two of his three decoy carving sons, Charles and Joey, were set up as vendors and were receiving many inquiries about their dad; with get-better well-wishes expressed. Contemporary as well as vintage decoy vendors were in the mix. We applaud



Museum President Pat Vincenti's efforts in attracting many vendors who displayed and sold old decoys, himself included.

Jim & Clo Trimble worked again this year as festival volunteers, taking responsibility for the 10-category J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest. Clo, along with museum curator Ginny Sanders handled the sign-in with Jim, along with Steve Dudley, working as "duck handlers." The three-judge panel is selected each year on a rotation basis with this year's selection including seasoned collectors Phil Ryser, John Sullivan, and Chris Worch. Judges did not serve where disqualified because of decoy entry. This year's entries saw many quality birds with 18 contestants entering 83 decoys with seven different collectors winning category blue ribbons.

Delaware collector Lloyd Sheats won the Best Taylor Boyd category with a fine pair of original paint canvasbacks, with attitude. Sheats struck again winning the Best Jim Currier category with a fine original paint canvasback, circa late 1940s, with H.M. brand. Virginia collector Chad Tragakis won the Best Cecil County Bluebill category with an early bold Will Heverin paddle-tail decoy with original paint ("OP") angel-wing paint pattern and a LP brand for early market gunner Lou Pennock. An early Jim Holly OP bluebill with H.P.S. brand won the Harford County Bluebill category for Maryland collector John Collier. Collier was not done yet! His diminutive upper Bay teal hen with carved eyes, bill delineations & nostrils in mellow old paint condition won first honors in the Unknown category as well as Best in Show....it was the day's double Blue Ribbon winner. Delaware collector S.R. Smith with a fine OP pair of John Glenn long-body pintails won the Best Rock Hall Puddle Duck category.











*Museum Curator Ginny Sanders and Clo Trimble handled the sign in and sign out for the Old Decoy Contest*



*Pennsylvania collectors Grant McLoughlin and Lou Nolan examining a Charles Bryan goose and a pair of small Jim Currier canvasbacks. Nolan is the President of the Delaware Valley Decoy Collectors Club*

A diminutive OP palm sized bufflehead hen by Ed Parsons won the Best Eastern Shore (non-Ward) Diving Duck category for Virginia collector Ron Lewicki. This little dipper also nailed 2nd Best in Show honors. Lewicki also won the Best Virginia Goose category with an unknown Barrier Island honker with tack eyes, neck shelf, and a mixture of OP and old gunning paint. The Best Ward Bros. Puddle Duck category was won by Maryland collector Rod Benjamin with a fine OP widgeon, circa 1940s. It was also voted 3rd Best in Show honors. The flock of shorebirds that decorated the competition table was a sight to behold. Mort Kramer's H.V. Shourds red knot, circa 1900, won first honors and the blue ribbon. Pick-up of the non-winning birds was orderly, reversing the sign-ins, this time with sign-outs and again with "duck handlers." Sanders, in her capacity as museum curator, had loan sheets ready for signature, as the category winners' decoys will be displayed for the next several months at the museum.



*Delaware collector/vendor Lloyd Sheats, South Carolina collector/vendor Tom Reed and Maryland collector Bruce Baynard talking ducks. Sheats was a double category winner in the Museum's J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest.*

**This duck packed weekend, courtesy of the staff and volunteers of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, is always a fun weekend for like-minded duck enthusiasts. We have already marked our calendar for the 2018 show that will be held the first full weekend of May.**



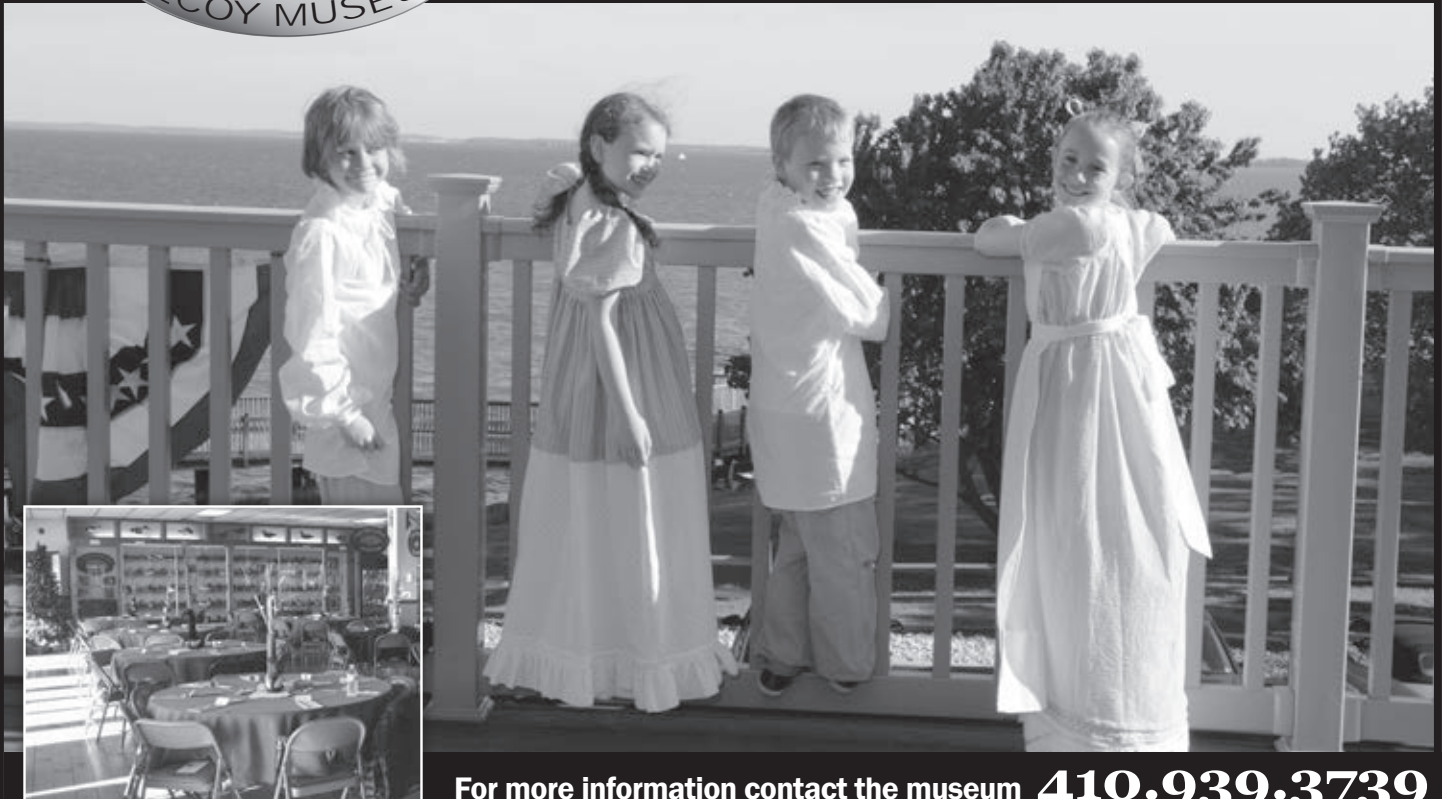
# *A Room with A View*



*Host Your Next Event at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum!*



**The Carver's Gallery at the Decoy Museum  
can accommodate up to 200 people, and the deck  
offers one of the best views in Harford County.**



**For more information contact the museum 410.939.3739**





# MacGregor's

*Restaurant, Tavern, Banquet Room*

*Open 365 Days a Year!*

**All Dining Room  
Tables Have  
Waterview**

**Daily Specials**

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

**Children's Menu**

**All-Season Pearl Bar  
& Deck**



**331 St. John Street • Havre de Grace, MD 21078**

**410.939.3003**

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