

The Canvasback

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

Summer/Fall 2019
Vol. 29 No. 3

\$3.00

The Art of **Boxleitner**

Havre de Grâce
**DECOY
MUSEUM**





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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.

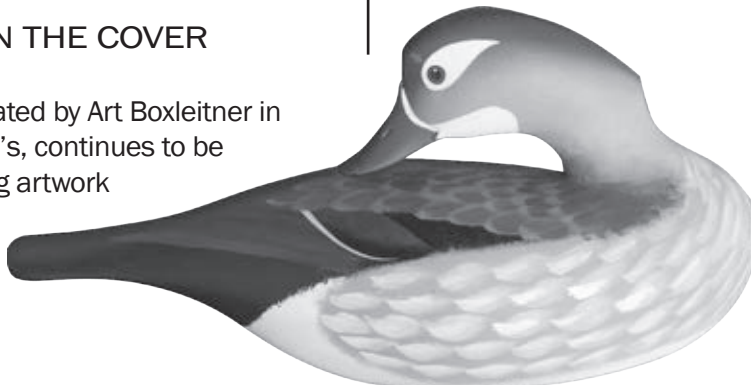
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ON THE COVER

This sign, created by Art Boxleitner in the late 1980's, continues to be the welcoming artwork for guests visiting the Decoy Museum.



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Captain Harry R. Jobes

1936-2019

The Decoy Museum was saddened to learn of Capt. Harry's passing on May 10th, just one week after our 38th Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival at which his youngest son Joey served as the Honorary Chairman.

While the decoy enthusiast community mourns this loss, we are certain that Capt. Harry is reminiscing and entertaining all of his cohorts in that "big ole' decoy shop in the sky."



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www.decoymuseum.com

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From the President...

As the heat of summer fades, I would like to share some changes at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum with our members. After fourteen solid years as President, Pat Vincenti decided to step down in late March to better focus on his family, decoy business and political aspirations. We thank Pat for his strong leadership for all those years as President and look forward to working with him as he continues to serve as a Board member.



With Pat's resignation, I was proud to be elected as his successor by the Board at a special meeting in late March. Allen Fair was elected as Vice President. We certainly have many accomplishments to celebrate over the years at the Museum, but we have much work to do. Our past leadership has left us with a firm foundation from which to build our future. The initial challenge for me is to analyze our needs and to prioritize them. Taking the Museum to the next level will require a combination of effort of our past supporters and identifying fresh ideas from new sources.

To help generate these ideas, we have recently added four new Board members who come from diverse backgrounds. Monica Worrell brings marketing experience to the group with a rich history in public service to the City of Havre de Grace. John Hughes, a retired educator with forty-four years of experience, brings some structure to our desire to formalize an education program at the Museum. John has a strong background in waterfowl ecology and is eager to help us get a program started in that area. Josh Blanchette, a local decoy carver, brings us the perspective of a younger generation of carvers and will certainly enable our efforts to better market our Museum to that demographic. John Currier comes from a family rich in decoy tradition. John will enable us to stay true to our roots but explore new horizons for our Museum. I am pleased with the contributions of our four new Board members to help lead our organization. We are always interested in prospective Board members who are willing to bring us new perspectives.

On May 4th and 5th, we hosted our Annual Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival. A good deal of analysis went into the planning of this year's event. Based on the feedback we received at last year's event, we decided to take some risks and deviate from tradition. Festival attendance was up 37% from last year. The Friday evening cocktail event was very well attended. We hosted a children's art contest and were pleased to have eighty-five entrants. And most importantly, there seemed to be an up-tick in sales for our vendors. We will continue to strive for improvement for this event.

Thank you for your continued support as we look forward to a bright future for the Museum.

Mike Tarquini
Board President

Educational Programs & Tours of the Decoy Museum are **FREE**

to school classes,
including home
schooled children!

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

Book your tours early, call Kerri Kneisley at

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information@decoymuseum.com



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

PDCA, ECDC, & CBMM Combine for a Decoy Collector's Hat-Trick

by Jim Van Ness, originally published in The Potomac Flyer, the newsletter of the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association

The weather may not have been perfect, but nearly everything else was as the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association's April meeting, the East Coast Decoy Collectors Association's Buy, Sell & Swap Meet, and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum's Exhibition Preview and Reception combined on April 12th and 13th to provide two days of fun, food, fellowship, and decoy full immersion.

Once again, the ECDC Buy, Sell & Swap Meet took over the majority of the rooms at the St. Michaels Inn beginning Thursday afternoon for the early arrivals and running through Saturday night. Overall, foot traffic appeared light compared to past years. Several main floor rooms that normally housed exhibitors seemed to be vacant or closed this year. Moreover, gusting winds shut down most of the tailgaters before noon on Friday, and intermittent rain discouraged many from even putting out their offerings on Saturday. Still, most of the exhibitors I spoke with seemed to be pleased with the amount of commerce taking place, even if sales were mostly between the collectors gathered for the meet. As one veteran participant reminded me, the ECDC Buy, Sell & Swap Meet originated as a gathering of like-minded decoy enthusiasts, not a "show" where dealers necessarily expected outside buyers. That spirit of camaraderie was certainly evident at Saturday afternoon's catered barbeque, as the membership enjoyed pit beef, smoked turkey, pulled pork, and various regional offerings donated by various participants, while discussing decoys and perhaps closing a few last-minute deals. Whether you were a buyer, seller, or merely a "tire kicker," there were a lot of wonderful decoys to look at and handle over the two days, so mark your calendar now for next year's meet!

Friday night added luster to the weekend, beginning with the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum's exhibition preview and reception celebrating the opening of its new exhibit ***Deconstructing Decoys: The Culture of Collection***. This well-designed exhibit explores varying perspectives about decoys as art and is intended to help guests understand how collectors "read" a decoy to determine its maker, its



Colin McNair

(in center holding the water bottle)
answers follow - up questions following his fascinating presentation.

history, and its significance. The reception—generously sponsored by Judy and Henry Stansbury, Guyette & Deeter, Inc., and Gourmet by the Bay—was very well attended, both by CBMM and ECDC members, and featured oysters on the half shell, steamed shrimp, and other delicacies, as well as a fine selection of adult beverages. If you missed the reception and preview, I urge you to visit the CBMM and view this fine exhibit the next time you are on the Eastern Shore.

Following the reception, about 50 PDCA members and guests returned to the meeting room at the St. Michaels Inn for the PDCA's regular monthly meeting. PDCA President Chad Tragakis chose to hold the Club's April meeting in conjunction with the ECDC Meet in a continuing effort to give more of the membership an opportunity to enjoy participating in a Club meeting. The meeting began with a slide presentation from Colin McNair of Copley Fine Art Auctions entitled "Looking into Decoys—a Tutorial on the X-ray and Decoys." Using a series of slides depicting actual decoy radiography, Colin's utterly fascinating presentation demonstrated how x-rays can be used to help to determine a decoy's age and method of construction, and reveal whether the decoy may have been repaired or repainted. Despite the long day and even though Colin dimmed the lights so the slides will show up better, no one dozed off during his presentation—it was just too interesting. Many of the members brought x-rays of some of their own decoys and engaged Colin in conversation for quite some time after the more formal portion of the meeting concluded. The PDCA is very grateful to Colin for making this presentation and hope to have him back next year to talk about other techniques for evaluating decoys.

Thank You!

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2019 Festival Acknowledgments

Carving Competitions

Dale Heitcamp
John Eichelberger

Exhibitor Reception

Jeannie Vincenti
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Old Decoy Contest

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Collectors Club

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Department

Special Programs

Raptor's Eye
Conowingo HRC

Student Art Contest

Allen Fair
Todd Pauliny
Monica Worrell

Volunteer Coordinator

Kerri Kneisley

38TH ANNUAL DECOY & WILDLIFE



by Kerri Kneisley
Photography by Jim Carroll, Neil Geisel & staff

The 38th Annual Festival was held on May 4th and 5th, with Captain Joey Jobes serving as honorary chairman. As the Museum's largest fundraiser, this event always requires a great deal of effort by many dedicated individuals, and this year was no exception. In an effort to improve the experience for all, the Board and staff took some risk in making changes to tradition. By most accounts, the risk was worth the reward!

One of the first changes was the elimination of Friday evening show hours. However, we kicked things off 30 minutes earlier on Saturday morning with very brisk sales which continued throughout the weekend.

Saturday dawned to a beautiful spring day. At the middle school, there were an abundance of activities to enjoy. Carvers of decoys old and new and wildlife

artists, including several new to this festival, were making sales. Exhibitor Allan Schauber showcased a special exhibit of William Reinbold work in the gymnasium. Also in the gymnasium was the ever-popular J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest facilitated by volunteers from the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association. The cafeteria hosted several exhibitors and the carving competition. Displayed throughout the middle school were 85 pieces of artwork, submitted by area students in response to our new art contest (*see article pg. 32*). Outside on the grounds were food vendors, raptor demonstrations courtesy of Raptor's Eye and retriever demonstrations courtesy of the Conowingo Hunt Retrievers Club.

At the Museum, festival attendees visited with carver Lenny Burcham in the historic R. Madison Mitchell shop, toured the Museum, and enjoyed the river gunning decoy competition with over 200 decoys

afloat on the famed Susquehanna Flats. While Sunday brought heavy rain which dampened our spirits a bit and prevented the retrievers from entertaining guests, sales continued at the Middle School.

Another change to this year's lineup was the elimination of the Silent Auction. Rather, the Museum raffled a "lottery duck" (a Capt. Joey Jobes mallard with \$100 worth of scratch-off lottery tickets). Tickets were sold throughout the weekend with the winner being drawn on Sunday afternoon. This raffle proved to be a profitable replacement which will likely return in coming years.

Overall, this Festival was one of the best attended in recent history. Thanks to the many volunteers, staff, board members and exhibitors who contributed to this success. We look forward to seeing you all again next year – mark your calendars for May 2nd and 3rd, 2020!









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38TH ANNUAL DECOY & WILDLIFE *Art Festival*

Carving Competition Results



Decorative Life-Size Floating: Open

DIVER

Bufflehead
1st Rodney Lee

MARSH

Shoveler
1st Rodney Lee

Best of Show
1st Rodney Lee
Bufflehead
2nd Rodney Lee
Shoveler

Decorative Life-Size Floating: Intermediate

DIVER

Goldeneye
1st Robert Sunderland

Redhead
1st Don Guilbault

Scaup
1st Don Guilbault

Harlequin
1st Robert Sunderland

Best in Class
1st Don Guilbault
Redhead
2nd Robert Sunderland
Harlequin
3rd Don Guilbault
Scaup

MARSH

Widgeon
1st Robert Sunderland

Best of Show
1st Robert Sunderland
Widgeon
2nd Don Guilbault
Redhead
3rd Robert Sunderland
Harlequin

Decorative Life-Size Floating: Novice

DIVER

Ruddy
1st Michael Kessler

Decorative Life-size Non-Floating: Open

Upland Game
1st Tom Miller
Quail

Songbirds
1st Cherylle Vitelli
Kingfisher

Waterfowl
1st John Butterfield
Canvasback (hen)
2nd John Butterfield
Goldeneye
3rd John Butterfield
Coot

Best of Show
1st Cherylle Vitelli
Kingfisher
2nd Tom Miller
Quail

Decorative Life-size Non-Floating: Intermediate

Shorebirds
1st Dan Dubay
Woodcock

Birds of Prey
1st Dan Dubay
Bald Eagle Head

Songbirds
1st Michael Kessler
Kinglet
2nd Carl Tosi
Cedar Waxwing
3rd Carl Tosi
Kingfisher

Waterfowl
1st Don Guilbault
Ringneck
2nd Robert Sunderland
Wood Duck
3rd Karl Morgan
Pintail

Best of Show
1st Michael Kessler
Kinglet
2nd Dan Dubay
Woodcock
3rd Dan Dubay
Bald Eagle Head

Decorative Life-size Non- Floating: Novice

Waterfowl
1st Dale Thomas
Mandarin

Miniature: Open

Waterfowl
1st Donnie Satchell
Black Duck
2nd Kevin Siple
Ruddy
3rd Donnie Satchell
Canvasback

Shorebirds
1st Ronald Felker
Marbled Godwit

Upland Game
1st Ronald Felker
Ringnecked Pheasant

Best of Show
1st Donnie Satchell
Black Duck
2nd Ronald Felker
Marbled Godwit
3rd Ronald Felker
Ringnecked Pheasant

"Whitey Franck" Slick Decoy

DIVER

Bufflehead
1st John Graf



Goldeneye

1st John Graf

Ruddy Duck

1st David Sproates

Harlequin

1st John Lackey

MARSH

Shoveler

1st Chris Martin Sr.

Blue-winged Teal

1st Rodney Lee

GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

Brant

1st Raymond Pavoletti

2nd David Jack

3rd David Sproates

Best of Show

1st Raymond Pavoletti
Brant

2nd Chris Martin Sr.
Shoveler

3rd John Lackey
Harlequin

Gunning Decoy

DIVER

Red-breasted Merganser

1st Ron Young

Surf Scoter

1st Ron Felker

Best in Class

1st Ron Young
Red-breasted Merganser

2nd Ron Felker
Surf Scoter

MARSH

Black Duck

1st Ron Young
Hen

2nd Ron Young
Drake

Gadwall

1st Bob Bartlett
Drake

Best in Class

1st Ron Young
Black Duck Hen

2nd Bob Bartlett
Gadwall

GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

Loon

1st Ron Young

Best of Show

1st Ron Young
Red-breasted Merganser

2nd Ron Young
Black Duck Hen

3rd Ron Young
Loon

Youth

Canvasback

1st Chris Martin Jr.
Drake

2nd Mason Devaux
Hen

Goldeneye

1st Mason Devaux
Drake

Red-breasted Merganser

1st Zachary LeBlanc
Drake

Redhead

1st Justin Clemens
Hen

Ruddy

1st Justin Clemens
Drake

Gadwall

1st Justin Clemens
Drake

Brant

1st Justin Clemens

Canada Goose

1st Jason Frazer

Best of Show

1st Chris Martin Jr.
Canvasback

2nd Jason Frazer
Canada Goose

3rd Mason Devaux
Goldeneye

Women

Songbirds

1st Jeanne Pulket
Cardinal

2nd Jeanne Pulket
Wren

3rd Peggy Wroten
Northern Lapwing

Cocktail

1st Kevin Siple
Swan

2nd Josh Blanchette
Swan

3rd Josh Blanchette
Merganser

HM Josh Blanchette
Bufflehead

Shorebirds

(Traditional Working)

1st Donnie Satchell
Yellowlegs

2nd Ron Felker
Godwit

3rd Donnie Satchell
Red Knot

Contemporary Antique Style Decoys

DIVER

Bufflehead

1st Donnie Satchell

Canvasback

1st Daniel Lozano

Goldeneye

1st Mark Finisecy

Red-breasted Merganser

1st Mark Finisecy

Ruddy

1st Mark Finisecy

2nd Mark Finisecy

Labrador Duck

1st Rich Moretz

MARSH

Black Duck

1st Mark Finisecy

2nd Rich Moretz

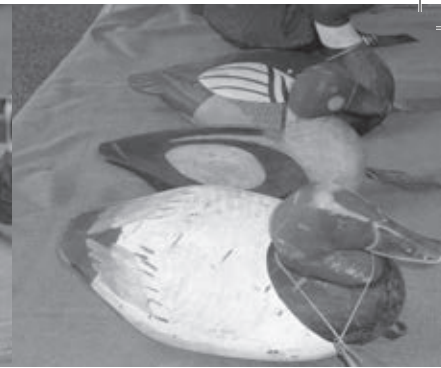
GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

Canada Goose

1st Michael Braden

Brant

1st Michael Kessler



Coot
1st Mark Finisey

SHOREBIRDS

Yellowlegs
1st Rich Moretz

Black Neck Stilt
1st Donnie Satchell

Gull
1st Rich Moretz

Best of Show
1st Mark Finisey
Coot
2nd Mark Finisey
Black Duck
3rd Rich Moretz
Yellowlegs

River Gunning Decoy Competition: Flat-bottom Rigs

MARSH

Green-winged Teal
1st George Williams
2nd William Kell

River Gunning Decoy Competition: Flat-bottom Pairs

DIVER

Bufflehead
1st Brian Moyse
2nd Jason Chuley
3rd Robin Oliver

Canvasback
1st Jeff Galat
2nd William Thurman
3rd William Kell

Golden Eye
1st John Bilbrough
2nd Michael Braden
3rd Robin Oliver

Red-breasted Merganser
1st William Kell

Hooded Merganser
1st John Day
2nd William Kell

American Merganser
1st William Kell

Redhead
1st Keith Clark
2nd William Kell
3rd William Thurman

Ringneck
1st William Kell

Harlequin
1st George Williams

MARSH

Black Duck
1st Karl Yankey
2nd Michael Braden
3rd Brian Moyse

Mallard
1st William Kell
2nd Keith Clark
3rd Jason Chuley

Pintail
1st Robin Oliver
2nd William Kell

Green-winged Teal
1st George Williams
2nd William Kell

Shoveler
1st Dave Farrow
2nd William Kell

Wood Duck
1st John Bilbrough

2nd John Bilbrough
3rd William Kell

Widgeon

1st Dave Farrow
2nd William Kell

River Gunning Decoy Competition: Flat-bottom Singles

DIVER

Bufflehead
1st Brian Moyse
Drake
2nd Brian Moyse
Hen
3rd Brian Moyse
Drake

Canvasback
1st Jeff Galat
Hen
2nd Jeff Galat
Drake
3rd George Williams
Drake

Golden Eye
1st Brian Moyse
2nd John Bilbrough
3rd John Bilbrough

Hooded Merganser
1st John Day
Hen
2nd John Day
Drake
3rd Brian Moyse

American Merganser
1st John Day

Old Squaw
1st Jeff Galat
Hen

2nd Ron Young
Drake
3rd Ron Young
Hen

Redhead
1st James Kimble
Hen
2nd George Williams
3rd James Kimble
Drake

Ring-necked Duck
1st Ron Young

Ruddy
1st Brian Moyse

Scaup
1st Jeff Galat
2nd George Williams

Scoter
1st Heck Rice
2nd George Williams
3rd Robin Oliver

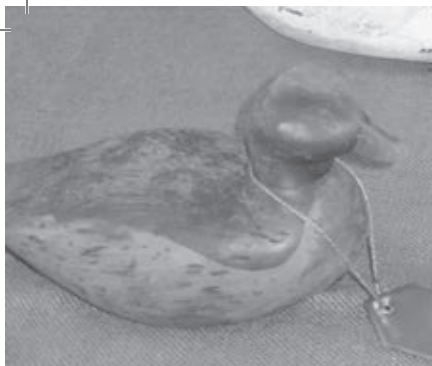
Best in Class
1st Jeff Galat
Canvasback Hen
2nd Jeff Galat
Scaup
3rd Jeff Galat
Old Squaw

MARSH

Black Duck
1st George Williams
2nd Karl Yankey
3rd John Bilbrough

Gadwall
1st George Williams

Mallard
1st Jason Chuley
Drake
2nd William Thurman



3rd Jason Chuley
Hen

Pintail

1st Robin Oliver
Hen

2nd Robin Oliver
Drake

Shoveler

1st Dave Farrow
Hen

2nd Dave Farrow
Drake

3rd Robin Oliver

Green-winged Teal

1st George Williams

Wood Duck

1st John Bilbrough

2nd Ron Young Drake

3rd Ron Young Hen

Widgeon

1st George Williams

2nd Dave Farrow

3rd Robin Oliver

Yellow-billed Pintail

1st George Williams

Best in Class

1st Robin Oliver
Pintail

2nd George Williams
Black Duck

3rd George Williams
Green-winged Teal

GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

Canada Goose

1st Robin Oliver

2nd William Kell

3rd Tom Benner

Brant

1st George Williams

2nd Karl Yankey

3rd William Kell

NeNe Goose

1st William Kell

Snow Goose

1st William Kell

Loon

1st Neil Geisel

2nd Tom Benner

Best in Class

1st Robin Oliver
Canada Goose

2nd George Williams
Brant

3rd William Kell
NeNe Goose

Best Overall (Flat Bottom)

Jeff Galat

Canvasback Hen

River Gunning Decoy Competition: Round-bottom Rigs

DIVER

Canvasback

1st Tom Benner

2nd Shawn Benner

River Gunning Decoy Competition: Round-bottom Pairs

DIVER

Canvasback

1st Tom Benner

2nd Tom Benner

3rd Shawn Benner

MARSH

Green-winged Teal

1st George Williams

River Gunning Decoy Competition: Round-bottom Singles

DIVER

Bufflehead

1st Brian Moyse

2nd George Williams

Canvasback

1st Matt Kneisley

2nd Brian Moyse

3rd Ron Young

Scaup

1st Todd Bergman

Harlequin

1st George Williams

Best in Class

1st Brian Moyse
Bufflehead

2nd Todd Bergman
Scaup

3rd George Williams
Harlequin

MARSH

Black Duck

1st Brian Moyse

2nd Carl Weidman

3rd Ron Young

Gadwall

1st Matt Kneisley

Mallard

1st Matt Kneisley
Hen

Green-winged Teal

1st Todd Bergman

Best in Class

1st Matt Kneisley
Mallard Hen

2nd Brian Moyse
Black Duck

3rd Matt Kneisley
Gadwall

GOOSE & CONFIDENCE

Canada Goose

1st Tom Benner

2nd Jason Sanderson

Swan

1st Matt Kneisley

Coot

1st Matt Kneisley

Gull

1st Tom Benner

Best in Class

1st Matt Kneisley
Coot

2nd Matt Kneisley
Swan

3rd Tom Benner
Gull

Best Overall (Round Bottom)

Brian Moyse
Bufflehead



The Art of Boxleitner

Excerpted from an article by Jim Trimble, originally published in the Winter 2010 edition of The Canvasback



The Conestoga River, a long narrow tributary of the mighty Susquehanna River, flows through the gentle rolling farmlands of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania where it eventually meets the Susquehanna, and then continues south to Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay.



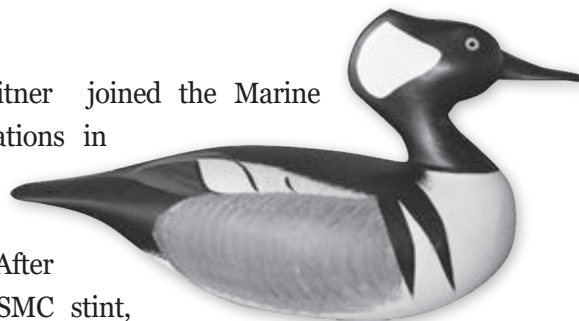
Art Boxleitner, born in 1935, was raised in the Cabbage Hill section of the city of Lancaster, approximately a mile away from the Conestoga River. Childhood memories have him and other local kids visiting the river often, to

swim and to play. It is that same river where Boxleitner's father, an avid hunter, introduced him to waterfowl hunting. Boxleitner's father was artistically inclined and made a fine decoy for their waterfowling. Beginning as a youngster, Boxleitner worked with his father, refurbishing and making decoys.

Jake Mowery, a local taxidermist and friend of Boxleitner's father, recognized his artistic touch. While still in high school, Boxleitner was hired by Mowery to splash and gently blend paint on trophy fish that Mowery was mounting. Mowery, a duck hunter, soon befriended young Boxleitner, taking him along on his hunting trips to the Chesapeake Bay. Mowery was also a friend of most of the watermen and

decoy makers from the Maryland bay communities on both sides of the Susquehanna River, often stopping by to visit. Young Boxleitner was particularly enthralled with visits to Will Heverin's Charlestown shop where he got a chance to observe and talk hunting and decoy making techniques with Heverin.

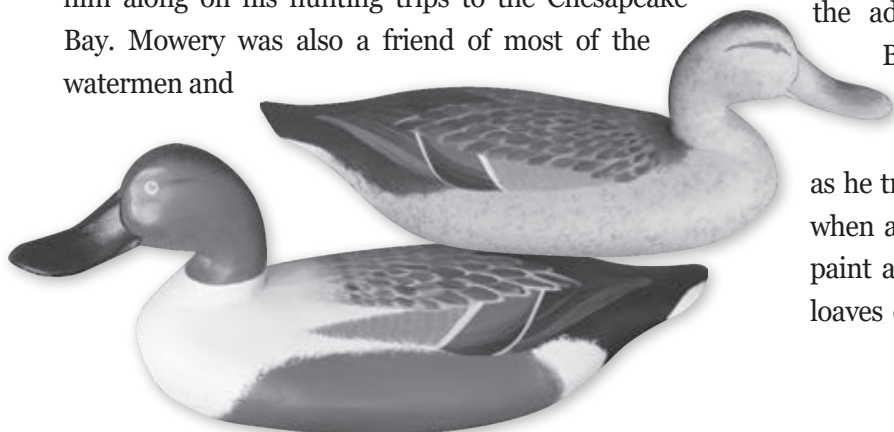
In 1956, Boxleitner joined the Marine Corps, with stations in Cherry Point, North Carolina and Okinawa. After a three-year USMC stint, Boxleitner returned to Lancaster



where he eventually obtained a job with an advertising and display company. They taught him the art of "letter perfect" sign painting for promotional items. "Letter perfect" is a euphemism that describes the art of the sign maker who has to layout and paint font evenly sized and evenly spaced within a space certain. It was also a chance to turn loose his artistic talents, sometimes combining murals with his newly acquired sign painting skills. Boxleitner evolved to a "walldog," painting signs on the walls of hi-visibility barns and brick buildings in the Lancaster area.

With President Eisenhower's interstate highway initiative, the advertising industry moved to billboard signage.

Boxleitner was laying out signage, some as large as 14 x 48 feet, some as high as 125 feet in the air, mixing and splashing gallons of oil based paint as he traversed a 2-foot wide scaffold. Depending on size, when a mural had to be painted, with a helper, he could paint a sign in 2-3 days. Among others, he was painting loaves of bread for Strohman's bread, the Marlboro Man







for Marlboro Cigarettes, automobiles for General Motors, Chrysler and Ford, all the while painting “letter perfect” signage to deliver their message. He also painted small signs for professional buildings and local universities, as well as painting lettering on fleet trucks and cars. Jobs also included painting a variety of murals for local businesses and amusement parks, some landscapes, some with animals, and some wanted paintings of covered bridges unique to the Lancaster area. One of his favorite murals was painting large sailing ships for the Norfolk Naval Base’s Officer’s Club.



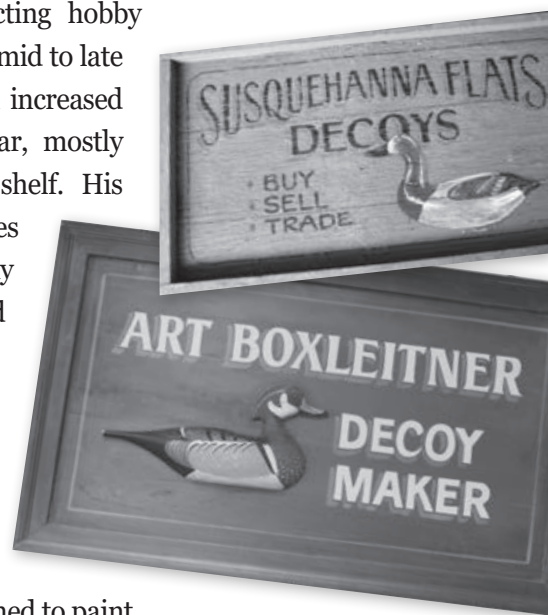
Boxleitner’s quest of hunting upland game and waterfowl never diminished. He was making his own decoys for hunting, and like his father had done, was now sometimes hunting with his sons. Upland game was sometimes hunted

on outlying Amish fields. His waterfowl gunning range was expanded northward into the freshwaters of the Susquehanna tributaries, and extended southward into the Chesapeake Bay. Rig decoys carried his A.W.B. impress brand that was later replaced with the more familiar A.BOXLEITNER burned brand. Duck hunting was done from a brush blind and the kills and decoys were retrieved with a floating grapple plug and casting fishing rod.

Unlike most decoy makers in the Susquehanna River region, Boxleitner carves in a Chesapeake Bay style. The bodies are hand chopped and shaped with a draw-blade, spoke-shave and knife. His diving ducks with stylistic paddle tail are similar to those made in Cecil County, Maryland, perhaps influenced by William Heverin, who took the time to talk ducks and teach technique to Boxleitner so many years ago.

His puddle ducks are fashioned with modified paddle tails. Heads are carved with bill delineation notch, a common signature used by generations of Cecil County decoy makers. Boxleitner’s stylistic patterns are his own, as are his paint patterns. Painted circular eyes are applied as generations of Upper Chesapeake Bay decoy makers have done before him. Initial production was for his and his families use. But as the decoy collecting hobby grabbed hold in the mid to late 80’s, his production increased to about 200 a year, mostly for the collector’s shelf. His production includes most Atlantic flyway species, hens and drakes, miniatures and full-sized.

When the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum opened, Boxleitner was retained to paint a large three-dimensional sign complete with flying canvasbacks that greeted visitors. They also retained him to make and paint hanging signs, many with gunning scenes that identifies each display. Most present day Havre de Grace area carvers commissioned and display a “letter perfect” Boxleitner created and personalized “Decoy Maker” sign.



EDITOR’S NOTE: Sadly, the decoy community lost another legend on December 1, 2017 when Art Boxleitner passed away. The Museum is honored to present a collection of his work, currently on display in our library, courtesy of his son Andrew and life-long friend Ed Heltshe. This collection will only be with us through Spring of 2020, so make plans to see it in person soon!

J. Evans McKinney 2019 Old Decoy Contest

Twenty-five collectors entered over 90 competition birds with five separate competitors winning in this ten-category vintage competition event. The three-judge panel of seasoned collectors were Will Freng, Steve O'Brien and C. John Sullivan Jr., who recused themselves in categories where they had an entry. Special thanks to the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association for coordinating this year's event!

Maryland collector Don Kirson won both the Best Virginia category and Best in Show honors with a spectacular Brant by Nathan Cobb.

The winning birds with their ribbons are currently on display at the Decoy Museum where they will remain through at least the end of the year.

Come see these fine pieces of folk art!



PLACE	CATEGORY	OWNER	DECoy ENTERED
Best in Show	Best Virginia Decoy	<i>Don Kirson</i>	Brant by Nathan Cobb
2nd Best in Show	Best New Jersey Decoy	<i>Don Kirson</i>	Redhead by Harry V. Shourds
3rd Best in Show	Best Rock Hall Decoy	<i>S.R. Smith</i>	Pintail Pair by John Glenn
	Best Upper Bay Mallard	<i>Ronnie Adams</i>	Drake by Paul Gibson c. 1940
	Best Harford County Redhead	<i>S.R. Smith</i>	Drake by James Holly c. 1800
	Best Cecil County Bluebill	<i>Ronnie Adams</i>	Drake by Leonard Pryor
	Best Bufflehead	<i>Jeremy Houser</i>	Drake by Dan English
	Best Unknown	<i>David Farrow</i>	Upper Bay Teal
	Best Shorebird	<i>Don Kirson</i>	Dowitcher by John Dilly
	Best Factory Decoy	<i>Don Kirson</i>	Stevens Brothers Mallard Drake

Spring 2019 Raffle Results

Winner:
\$500 Cash
Mary Lambert



Winner:
Pair of Scaup by Dan Carson
Carl Grove



Winner:
Harford County Canvasbacks Print
William Reinhoff II

Winner:
Black Duck by Jim Pierce
David Baker



Fourth Annual Annapolis Decoy Show Keeps Growing

by Jim Van Ness, originally published in The Potomac Flyer, the newsletter of the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association

An enthusiastic crowd surged in and mingled with a record number of vendors as the doors opened at 10:00 A.M. on June 2nd to welcome veteran decoy collectors and interested newcomers alike to the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association's 4th annual renewal of the Annapolis Decoy Show. For the next two hours, vendors enjoyed a steady stream of visitors who seemed to be in a buying mood, even if that didn't always translate into actual sales. Still, most vendors reported at least some commerce and many remarked that it was their best year yet at this one-day show. The growth in show attendance is credited to an increase in advertising this year, greater word of mouth among collectors, and especially to steady outreach by club member Steve Dudley, who handled the pre-show publicity capably from his home in North Carolina.

Once again, the show was held at Annapolis Elks Lodge 622, conveniently located just off Route 2 in Edgewater, Maryland. This well-lit facility provides ample space for a logical layout for the vendor tables, as well as convenient free parking for show attendees. Add free admission and free decoy identification and appraisal, and it is easy to see why this show has already become a tradition for many mid-Atlantic decoy collectors as well as those newer to the hobby.

Again this year, the vendors offered a good assortment of quality collectible decoys at all price levels, including some exceptional antique birds as well as world-class contemporary and decorative pieces. Additionally, vendors offered an assortment of vintage waterfowling-related accessories, sporting art, oyster cans, and decoy collecting books and magazines. Sales were reported from \$25 to \$3,000, and some discreet vendors hinted at sales north of \$5,000. The PDCA is grateful for the support it received from decoy dealers up and down the East Coast; this year, vendors from at least six states and the District of Columbia were represented.

Education is a large part of the PDCA's core mission, so the club was especially pleased to have representatives from the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and the Upper Bay Museum present to provide information on current and forthcoming exhibits and activities. The show was also fortunate to have PDCA member Dick Larrimore on hand to provide information on regional waterfowling and decoy making, along with his incomparable display of Annapolis-area and Anne Arundel County decoys.

The club's decoy identification and appraisal table, staffed by PDCA members and Decoy Magazine, was again this year a popular place. Although the experts



didn't unearth any truly extraordinary finds, they did handle a variety of interesting items for those who came laden with bags and seeking information. Included in the mix were an original paint Mason Premier Grade mallard hiding behind a coat of dirt and soot; a classic Bob McGaw canvasback; a pre-Civil War John Graham decoy; and a folky trio of bluebills from upstate New York or Canada that regrettably remained unidentified. Additionally, and not surprisingly, the appraisal team also handled several decoys by Madison Mitchell and his Havre de Grace protégés Paul Gibson, Charlie Bryan, Jim Pierce and Captain Harry Jobes (who, sadly, passed away recently).

The PDCA and a legion of his other friends from the decoy collecting community were heartened to see the long-awaited return of Jim Trimble to the decoy collecting circuit. As most know, Jim was badly injured in a car accident last fall, but apart from the cane he was sporting, Jim looked "fit as a fiddle" as he made his way resolutely around the vendor tables. Even more encouraging was the fact that Jim was his treasured old self—handling decoys, opining on attribution, and trying to work a few deals. All that needs be said is that Jim's evident determination and his wife Clo's compassionate nursing have returned a decoy collecting stalwart and friend to the club and the decoy show circuit, where he has certainly been missed.

Although foot-traffic dropped off markedly in the afternoon—as is true of most decoy shows—this fourth annual edition of the PDCA's renewed Annapolis Decoy



Jim Van Ness greets collector Jim Trimble, who's been sorely missed during his recovery from injuries suffered in a car accident last fall. Welcome back, Jim!

Show saw increased attendance over the previous three years. In addition to Publicity Chairman Steve Dudley, thanks for this are due to PDCA member John Henry, PDCA Vice President David Farrow, PDCA Secretary and newsletter Publisher Jim Van Ness, and, most especially, PDCA President Chad Tragakis. Plans are already being made for next year's show, so mark your calendar; encourage your daughter to pick another June weekend for her wedding; and plan on joining us!



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.



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Museum News



From the Executive Director...

Summer was busy here at the Museum. With multiple student field trips in late May and June, adult tour groups throughout the summer, multiple rentals of our 2nd floor gallery, multiple Havre de Gracewide events which increased our exposure, carvers in the R. Madison Mitchell Shop, transitioning of displays, and of course, visitors from around the globe, the months have slipped by very quickly.



Notably, we also had the distinct honor of a visit from Discovery Channel's Road Trip Masters! Keep your eyes and ears open for the television air date in April 2020.

We have also been busy this summer making plans to expand our educational programming, for both youth and adults. Stay tuned for announcements of events, to include a speaker series, "Meet the Carver" evenings, waterfowl study trips and more.

We are once again offering the popular Carve & Candy family event on Sunday, October 27th and will, as always, participate in the Annual Candlelight Tour on Saturday, December 14th. And believe it or not, Festival 2020 will be here before we know it, so planning is underway.

Finally, thank you for your patience as we work through some editorial changes with this magazine. We are immensely grateful for Jim Carroll's dedication to this project over the past seven years and strive to continue his, and others', efforts to provide this valuable resource.

Best,

Keri

Current Exhibits @ the Museum

- A new exhibit in the library of Art Boxleitner's carvings and flat art.



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

- A rare exhibit of Labrador duck decoys courtesy of Frank Jonczak.



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



- The Potomac Decoy Collectors Association's stunning NEW collection of coots in the Carver's Gallery.

- The Home Run Baker rig and bushwhack boat.

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



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

- 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.



Havre de Grace Decoy Museum & Troop 238

By Mike Tarquini



Havre de Grace Mayor Bill Martin leads an interactive discussion with Scouts and adult leaders from Troop 238 (St. Ignatius Church, Hickory, MD). Mayor Martin educated those present on the history of John O'Neill (the first keeper of Concord Point Lighthouse). Mayor Martin presented each attendee with a commemorative coin.

For years the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum has been hosting Cub Scouts as they work to earn their "Whittling Chip" certification. Recently, Josh Blanchette has taken on the responsibility to teach these classes. Building on our established relationship with local Cub Scout groups, the Museum has recently worked closely with Troop 238 (St. Ignatius Church, Hickory, MD) to expose their Boy Scouts to the Havre de Grace Historic District and has sponsored two recent Eagle Scout Service Projects.

During the second weekend in May (10-12), Troop 238 descended on the Decoy Museum grounds and set up camp with the intent to visit all three neighboring Museums as well as other sights in the immediate area. The Scouts visited the Maritime Museum, Concord Point Lighthouse and Keeper's Museum as well as the Decoy Museum where docents educated them about each of the Museum's offerings. The Scouts also visited the Gold Star Family Memorial near Concord Point.

The highlight of the trip was on Saturday evening when Havre de Grace Mayor Bill Martin led an educational discussion about John O'Neill as the Scouts and adult leaders encircled a campfire. Despite the threatening skies, everyone in attendance listened intently as Mayor Martin led his interactive session. Mayor



Troop 238 arrived on Friday, May 10 and set up camp in the space immediately behind the Decoy Museum. Troop 238 is led by Scoutmaster Richard Trznadel.



The Museum's efforts with Troop 238 has served as a pilot test as we strive to expand our educational programs for our youth. Hats off to the many volunteers that have made these scouting events such a success.

Mac Sansbury proudly stands next to his completed Eagle Scout Service Project. Mac raised funds to completely re-build the landing and stairs that link the rear driveway of the Museum to the Mitchell Shop. The project was completed in Early June.

Martin presented each Scout and adult leader with a commemorative coin at the end of his presentation.

In addition to a very successful weekend camping event, the Decoy Museum hosted a team led by Mac Sansbury (Troop 238) as he completed his Eagle Scout Service Project. Mac's team demolished the old stairway linking the rear driveway of the Museum with the Mitchell Shop. The team then replaced the stairway and landing with a new structure that meets all current building codes and is equipped with an ADA compliant railing. Mac raised the necessary funding for the project and saw it to completion.

A second Eagle Scout Service Project is underway at the Museum. Liam McKaig (Troop 238) has taken on a project of re-landscaping the front of the Museum. Although it's very early in the life of this project, Liam has already met with Museum and City of Havre de Grace personnel as well as a professional landscaper to better understand the restrictions and options for the replacement of the current overgrown shrubs.

Being in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area adds a level of complexity for Liam's project. Liam expects to begin work in late summer with new plantings envisioned in the fall. Good luck to him as he tackles this challenging project.



Museum News

Fall 2019 Raffle

A chance to win ONE of four valuable prizes. Four tickets will be drawn.

Tickets are \$5.00 each • 6 for \$25.00 • 10 for \$40.00



First Prize:
Canvasback Pair
by Charlie Joiner 2008

Second Prize:
\$400 cash



Third Prize:
¼ size Mallard Pair
by Clarence Bauer 1985



Fourth Prize:
"Lords of the Bay - Canvasbacks"
print by Wm. Redd Taylor

Drawing Sunday, December 14, 2019 at 6 pm.

For tickets call **410.939.3739**
or email: information@DecoyMuseum.com
(additional tickets will be available at the Museum)

Get in the FORMATION!

**Our members are a very
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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 or call us at 410.939.3739



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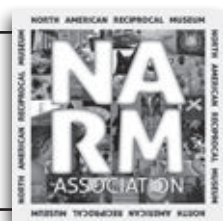
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The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Store offers a wide range of gifts from collectible to whimsical and everything in between.

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Wind Chimes & So Much More!**

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- Full-color photographs of over 80 decoys

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Sporting Clay Classic at Schrader's Outdoors

By Kerri Kneisley

After a two-year hiatus, the Decoy Museum's Sporting Clay Classic returned on Sunday, July 14th. It was a beautiful, albeit warm, day at Schrader's Outdoors, located in Henderson, Md. The course, which is approximately 1 mile long and includes both wooded and open trail, offers 16 stations, each featuring four traps with a combination of challenging targets.

We were thrilled to host 65 shooters for the main event, with many taking advantage of side games such as long bird and a shell game for cash prizes. 26 shooters also chose to participate in our 30-target side-by-side/pump event. Decoys were awarded as prizes to Lewis Class winners, ladies class winners, green-wing (youth) class winners, the winner of the side-by-side event, and of course, high overall scorer (Museum member and non-member). Thanks to Capt. Bill Collins, Charles Jobes, Capt. Joey Jobes, Jim & Charlie Pierce and Pat Vincenti for their donations of beautiful decoys for our prize winners.

Each shooter received tickets for a chance at 10 different door prizes, which featured not only Decoy Museum apparel and glassware, but items donated by Benelli USA and CB Shooting Supply. Each shooter also received one ticket for a chance to win a brand new Remington 870, courtesy of Mark Helmick. And of course, there was fantastic food after the shoot, served in the air-conditioned clubhouse, thanks to the work of Capt. Bill Collins, David Handley, Ed Henry, and Leonard Palmer.

The success of this event was due in large part to the hard work and dedication of Bob Haase. The Museum would like to thank Bob and all of the sponsors (Bel Air Carpet, Daffin Marine Service, Guyette & Deeter, Laney Companies, and West & Callahan) for making this event so special. Finally, we would like to thank Schrader's Outdoors and their staff for a great day of shooting.

We look forward to seeing you next year!

Congratulations to our Clay Shoot Winners!

Museum Member Champion **Mark Helmick**
Non-Member Champion..... **Dickie Ivory**
Pump Champion **Fang Campbell**
Side by Side Champion **Chris Cox**

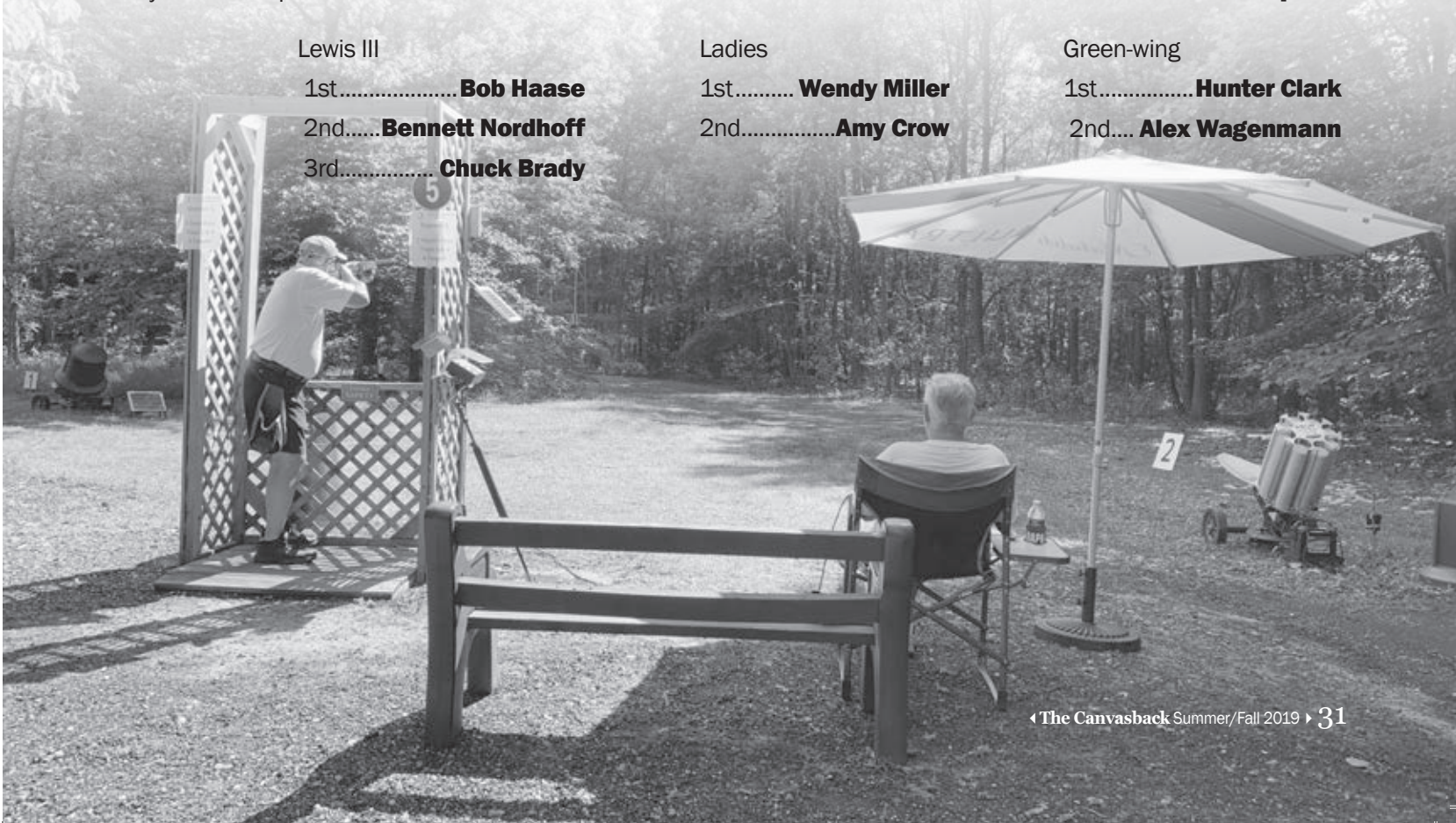
Lewis III
1st..... **Bob Haase**
2nd..... **Bennett Nordhoff**
3rd..... **Chuck Brady**

Lewis I
1st..... **Billy Worm**
2nd..... **Steve Spurry**
3rd..... **Chris Short**

Ladies
1st..... **Wendy Miller**
2nd..... **Amy Crow**

Lewis II
1st..... **Jonathan Dixon**
2nd..... **Shawn Nordhoff**
3rd..... **Nick Lepore**

Green-wing
1st..... **Hunter Clark**
2nd..... **Alex Wagenmann**



Student *Art* Contest

A new addition to this year's Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival was a student Art Contest. After Board and staff determination of eligibility criteria, the contest was announced to elementary and secondary education facilities across Harford, Cecil and Baltimore counties. The contest rules stated that entries must be submitted by April 15th. Now, we just had to sit back and wait.

At first, entries merely trickled in; however, in the final few days, the Museum received an onslaught from many young artists. We were thrilled to receive eighty-five stunning pieces of artwork, from sculptures to flat art!

All eighty-five pieces were displayed at the Middle School during the entire weekend of the Festival. Judging was conducted on two separate levels:

- 1) all visitors to the Festival were provided an entry form to vote on their favorites (People's Choice award) and
- 2) a distinguished volunteer panel of judges also selected their choices based on specific criteria.

In addition to adding to the visual aesthetic of the Festival, the artwork provided an opportunity for our visitors to engage, and boy did they enjoy the activity!

All participants were invited to attend the Festival at the close of the event on Sunday for the results and awards presentation. While not every contestant was able to be present, it was wonderful to see so many young faces assembled in the cafeteria that afternoon. The winning entries, pictured on the next page, are currently on display in the Museum's library.

Student Art Contest Winners 2019

12 & Under



1ST PLACE



2ND PLACE



3RD PLACE

13 & Over



1ST PLACE



2ND PLACE



3RD PLACE

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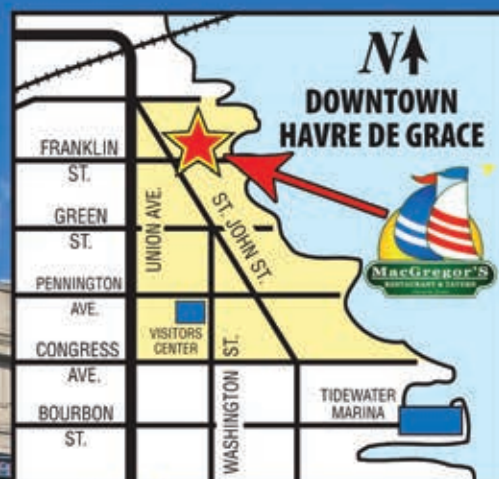
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