

# The Canvasback

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HAVRE DE GRACE DECoy MUSEUM

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Vol. 34 No. 1

Winter 2024





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### can•vas•back

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

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

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

FUNDED IN PART BY



BOB CASSILLY  
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The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org)



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### ON THE COVER

The Yellow Labrador Retriever "Edgar" pictured on the cover belonged to Freddie & Tara Zellman of Havre de Grace, MD. The Zellmans purchased what was the funeral business once owned by R. Madison Mitchell. Edgar is seen cutting his teeth on none other than an R. Madison Mitchell decoy head. Photo by Scott Moody.

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# 2023 Decoy Museum Annual Appeal

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## From the President...

It's very hard to believe that 2023 is behind us. The past year was a very productive one for the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and 2024 promises to be even more beneficial to our mission of collecting, documenting, preserving, and interpreting waterfowl decoys as a unique form of folk-art that is a distinctive element of the cultural heritage of our region.



Unfortunately, 2023 began with the loss of a dear friend of the Decoy Museum, Ed Henry (St. Michaels, MD). Ed was a stalwart in fundraising for the Museum through his efforts to support the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Dinner and spearheading the Annual Sporting Clay Shoot. This fall, the Museum partnered with the Billy Comegys Chapter of Ducks Unlimited (Queen Anne's County) to create the Ed Henry Memorial Sporting Clay Shoot. Monies raised were split between the organizations.

The spring of 2023 saw the Museum launch its interactive touchscreens and QR Coding throughout the facility. Special thanks to all participants in the electronic project. QR Codes were placed on exhibit cases throughout the museum that link our visitors to biographical print material for each decoy maker featured in those exhibits. Visitor feedback has been supportive of the changes that we have made. Of course, the 41st Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival was again held at the STAR Centre. Charles Jobes served as Honorary Chairman. By all accounts, the show was a success and will be held there again in 2024.

During the summer, the Museum was awarded a Maryland Historical Areas Authority (MHAA) grant to research and establish a new exhibit that will showcase the "Influence of African Americans on Decoy Making". The Museum is conducting research, interviewing black carvers, and crafting ideas to present our findings. Our goal is to have the new exhibit in place in 2024. Summer also found us focusing on options to preserve the original decoy shop of R. Madison Mitchell. The Museum has created a project team that is currently working on a two-pronged approach to address this challenge. We have retained an architectural firm to design an addition to the existing museum footprint that will encapsulate the Mitchell Shop and add much needed additional exhibit space. In parallel, we have engaged an exhibition and experience design firm that plans and designs exhibits and interactives for museums and historic sites and centers to assist us in developing a master plan for the future of the museum. If funds won't allow new construction, we hope to have an option to rearrange our presentations within our current footprint. We anticipate the results of our master planning to be available in Q1 2024.

As you can see, the Decoy Museum has been very busy in 2023 and has a very ambitious agenda in store for 2024. We launched our Annual Appeal Campaign in November. As always, we thank our many supporters and encourage others to get involved with the museum and help us achieve our goals. The cultural heritage of waterfowling and decoy making in the Upper Chesapeake Bay is worth preserving!



HAVRE DE GRACE • MARYLAND

42ND ANNUAL

# Decoy & Wildlife Arts Festival

May 4 & 5, 2024

STAR Centre

700 Congress Avenue, Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Saturday, May 4 • 9 AM – 5 PM

Sunday, May 5 • 9 AM – 3 PM

*Honorary Chairman:  
C. John Sullivan, Jr.*



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410.939.3739 • [information@decoymuseum.com](mailto:information@decoymuseum.com) • OPEN YEAR-ROUND

## FESTIVAL INFORMATION

*Friday, May 3*

### **Exhibitor Set-up**

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM \* STAR Centre

### **Carvers Reception**

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM \* Decoy Museum

*Saturday, May 4*

### **42nd Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival Exhibition**

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM \* STAR Centre

### **Decorative Carving Registration & Competition**

STAR Centre (Small Gym)

Registration 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Judging 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

### **Gunning Decoy Registration & Competition**

STAR Centre (Small Gym)

Registration 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Judging 11:00 AM – 3:00 AM

### **J. Evans McKinney Old Decoy Competition**

STAR Centre (Small Gym)

Registration 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Judging 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*Sunday, May 5*

### **42nd Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival Exhibition**

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM \* STAR Centre

### **Museum**

### **Spring Raffle**

### **Drawing**

2:00 PM

STAR Centre



### **A note about the Honorary Chairman . . .**

C. John Sullivan, Jr., a nationally recognized expert on American wooden fowl, is both an appraiser and collector of decoys, firearms, and other accoutrements used in the pursuit of waterfowl. An historian by avocation, he has spent a lifetime researching the history of waterfowling in the Chesapeake region.

John has shared his knowledge and promoted appreciation of the waterfowling tradition of Maryland and the appreciation of decoys as folk art by authoring meticulously researched books on waterfowling, drawing on gunning club journals, memoirs, and personal interviews to recreate the heyday of the sport and appreciation of the decoy art form.

**Food & Beverages will be available during the weekend through our show partner, the Susquehanna Flats Chapter of Delta Waterfowl. Please visit our website [www.decoymuseum.com](http://www.decoymuseum.com) for Festival information and updates to this schedule as we draw nearer to the event.**



Fall 2023

# Raffle Winners



1st Prize:  
\$500 Cash  
**Bob Kohn**



2nd Prize:  
Mallard Pair by  
Charlie Bryan (1985)  
**K. Holly**



3rd Prize:  
"The Gathering" Eagle Print  
by Cynthia Fisher  
**George Milto**

4th Prize:

Black Duck by Capt.  
Bill Collins (1994)  
**Ron Felker**



**The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum wishes to thank everyone who participated in the Fall Raffle.**

Spring 2024

# 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**



1st Prize:  
\$500 Cash

2nd Prize:

Mallard Pair by  
R. Madison Mitchell, 2008



3rd Prize:

Fall Outing (Wood Duck Print) by  
Margaret Reinhold Blair

4th Prize:

Captain Bill Collins  
Drake Redhead, 1992



**Drawing will be held on Sunday, May 5, 2024 @ 2:00 PM in the lobby of the STAR Centre**

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



Daddy Holly's Protégé?

# Dick Howlett and a Closer Look at Mackey's Howlett Canvasback



By Chad Tragakis

If Havre de Grace, Maryland is indeed the “Decoy Capital of the World” – then its “First Family” would have to be the Hollys. For over a century now, the Holly name has been synonymous with Upper Chesapeake Bay decoy making and waterfowling. John W. Holly, Sr. (1818-1892), best known to his family and the decoy collecting community as “Daddy” Holly, is arguably the earliest documented and most influential decoy maker from Havre de Grace.



*A formal photographic portrait of Dick Howlett and his young son, George, taken circa 1875. Fittingly, they are holding carved canvasback decoy heads.*

collectors and historians today. Indeed, the Havre de Grace style decoy and the decoy making “school” of R. Madison Mitchell (1901-1993) owe everything to the Holly Family and their legacy.

Beginning with Daddy and continuing with his three sons: William Watson Holly (1847-1925), James Thomas Holly (1849-1935) and John W. Holly, Jr. (1851-1927), the four men were a decoy making dynasty of sorts. This dominance stretched from before the Civil War up into the early years of the Twentieth Century. Because of this extraordinary time-span, and the amazing output produced during it (in terms of both quantity and quality), Holly Family decoys remain among the most historically and artistically important to

Following John “Daddy” Holly by roughly 11 years was another seminal but often overlooked Havre de Grace decoy maker, Richard “Dick” Howlett (1829-1895). Far less has been written about Howlett, and while he and his decoys have been referenced in several published works, he has remained largely in the shadow of Daddy Holly and other early Susquehanna Flats decoy makers. In speaking with Dick’s grandson George Richard Howlett (1900-1988) and with older residents of Harford and Cecil Counties, early decoy collector and historian J. Evans McKinney was able to discern that Howlett, like Holly, gunned for the market as well as made decoys. But having been born five years after his grandfather’s passing, there was little more information that George, or others for that matter, could provide to McKinney.

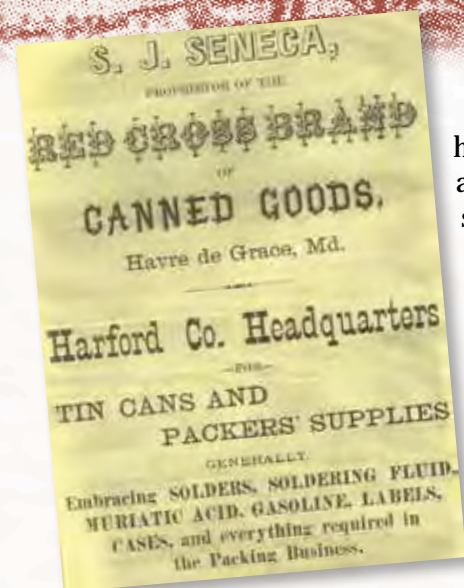
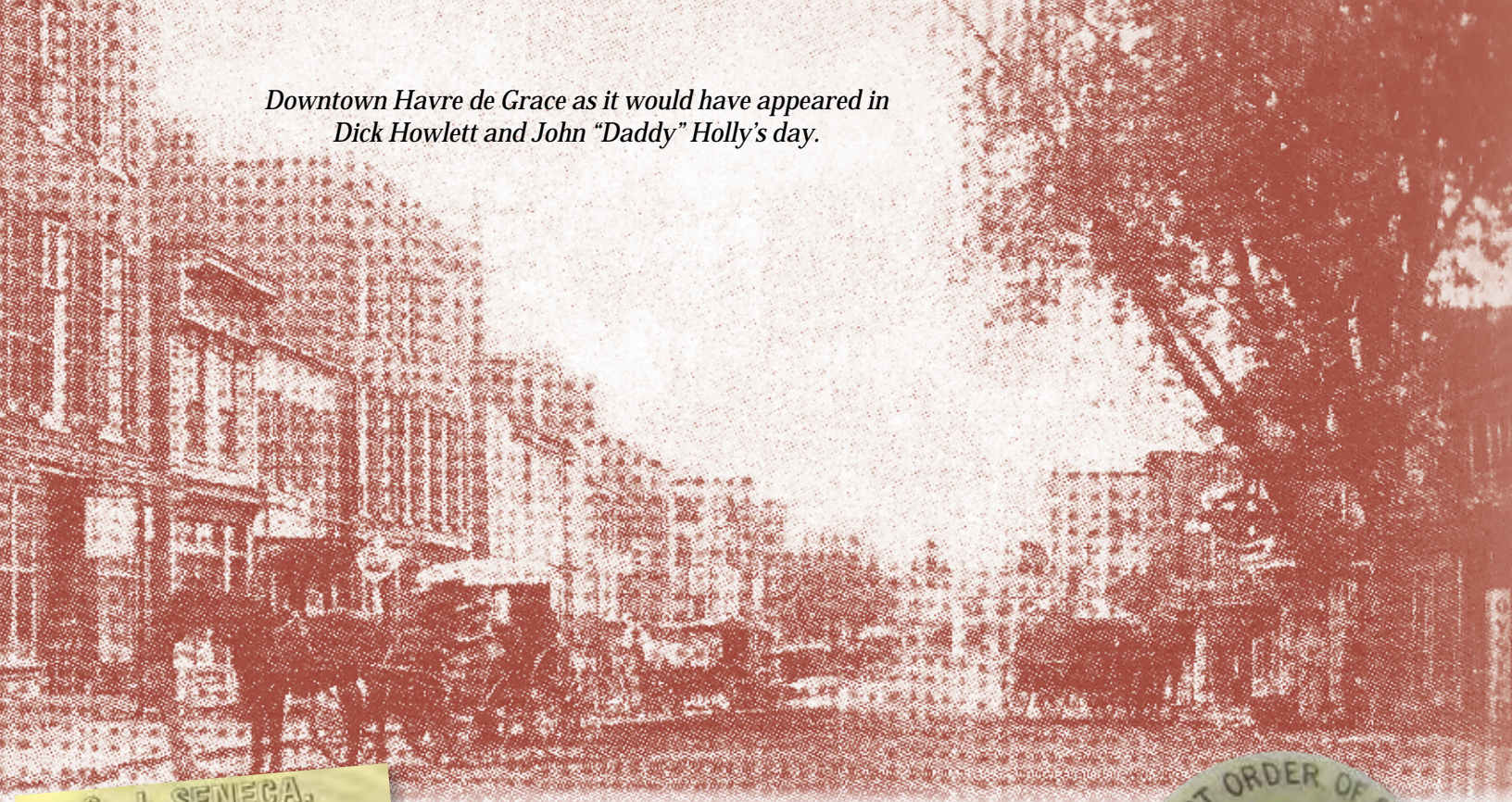
As we explore and celebrate the decoys, decoy-making legacy, and powerful influence of John “Daddy” Holly in conjunction with the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association’s landmark exhibit at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, we must also revisit the connections between Holly and Howlett. Dick Howlett’s life, his decoys and his family are so linked with Daddy Holly and seemingly intertwined with the Holly family, that it’s almost impossible to talk about one without including the other.

The first Howletts arrived in America from England in 1622 and 1623, settling in Virginia. A second group, from Ireland, settled in Harford County toward the end of the 1700s. This group included Charles Andrew Howlett (1726-1810), Dick’s great grandfather. Dick’s grandfather, James Howlett (1738-1819) was born in Aberdeen, and married wife Catherine (1742-1826), also from Aberdeen, in 1762. They had eight children, the youngest of whom was Dick’s father, Matthew.

Matthew (1791-1862), known as Mathy, was a member of the Maryland Militia and veteran of the War of 1812, a well-regarded leathersmith and maker of hand-crafted boots, and later in his life a prominent and respected citizen. Shortly after



*Downtown Havre de Grace as it would have appeared in  
Dick Howlett and John "Daddy" Holly's day.*



*For many years during the fruit packing season, Howlett worked for the S. J. Seneca canning house. Local tomatoes, corn, fruit and other produce were canned and shipped by rail from Havre de Grace to retailers across the country.*

his military service came to an end, Matthew married sweetheart Elizabeth "Eliza" Mitchell (1798-1881) on December 30, 1814. They settled in Aberdeen, close to other members of the family, and had their first child in 1815. Sometime later, Matthew purchased property in Havre de Grace, first on Stokes Street and later a duplex on Otsego Street. He operated his boot-making business and leather workshop from home. Richard Thomas Howlett was born in Havre de Grace on December 21, 1829. He was the ninth of 13 children born to Matthew and Eliza Howlett.

Richard, known to family and friends as "Dick," was a hearty, robust man who lived his entire life in the small but bustling waterfront town of Havre de Grace. He worked at a variety of jobs over the course of his early adulthood. Naturally, this included working the water and harvesting the bounty of the Bay. Like Daddy, Dick fished commercially in the spring and worked as a market gunner and guide for wealthy "sports" in the

fall and winter. He probably started making decoys around 1850, when he was about 20 years old. During the fruit packing season, he worked for the S. J. Seneca canning house. By the 1870s, canning was one of the most important and profitable industries in Harford County, an offshoot of the region's abundant and diverse agriculture. The famous Seneca Company opened a fruit packing and can manufacturing plant in Havre de Grace in 1878. Local tomatoes, corn, fruit and other produce was canned and shipped by rail throughout the country.

Dick married Margaret "Annie" Hayden Milligan on January 5, 1858. Annie (1826-1909) had emigrated to Havre de Grace from Baden, Germany. It was her second marriage. They lived on Otsego Street, which over the years has been home to many notable decoy makers, market hunters and watermen. In 1860, Dick and Annie lived next door to William Wilson, a boat captain, waterman and gunner, and father of decoy maker Summerfield Wilson, and with whom Dick's parents and younger brother, Matthew, were living. As one of his social outlets, Richard was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a



*Howlett was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a national fraternal organization that was popular in the late 19th century. The Havre de Grace chapter was especially active, and served as an enjoyable social outlet for hard-working men like Howlett.*



183104	Howlett Dick	18 M 41				Decoy Maker
	Annie	17 2 40	Wife			Ref House
	George	17 11 41	Son			Law Labor
1841 104	Harvey Stevens	20 11 40				

*Dick Howlett appears to have the distinction of being the only person whose occupation is listed as “Decoy Maker” in any 18th, 19th or early 20th century U.S. Census.*

national fraternal organization that was popular throughout America in the late 19th century. The Havre de Grace chapter, the Morning Star Lodge No. 20, was particularly active.

Dick and Annie had one child, a son, George Henry, born October 6, 1868. From 1850 to 1870, Dick’s occupation was listed in census records simply as “laborer.” But by 1880, Dick self-identified as a “Decoy Maker” in the U.S. Census conducted on June 2 of that year. Somewhat surprisingly, he appears to have the distinction of being the only person whose occupation is listed as “Decoy Maker” in any 18th, 19th or early 20th century U.S. Census. While decoy making was a principal occupation for a number of men, particularly the well-known makers living and working in Harford and Cecil Counties during the “golden age” of waterfowling, they usually self-identified as gunners, hunting guides, fishermen or watermen. Since decoy making was simply one part of how these men earned their living, it was somewhat unusual for them to think of themselves as solely and exclusively or even mainly as a decoy maker.

We know that Dick worked as a commercial fisherman, market hunter and gunning guide at different points in his life, as well as a laborer, boat builder, carpenter and in the canning factory, so for him to self-identify as simply a “decoy maker” suggests that, during this period at least, he had dedicated himself to decoy production more fully perhaps than other Susquehanna Flats makers and that he truly was producing decoys on an entirely different level than his peers. By comparison, Daddy Holly’s occupation in the 1880 Census is listed as “Gun and Fishing,” a much more typical description and characterization for watermen found in such records.

To put this in perspective, one must consider how seriously and solemnly American citizens took the census in the 19th and early 20th centuries. For many people, this was the most important interaction they had with the government and with officialdom. Information was carefully considered before being provided to census takers. So, to self-identify as a decoy maker (and not a waterman, fisherman, carpenter, laborer or any of the other host of occupations Dick most certainly could have honestly said), suggests that he was making a lot of decoys and that he must have been far, far more prolific than his seemingly meager surviving output



*Dick Howlett’s son George, shown here in a formal photographic portrait circa 1910, was a contemporary of John “Daddy” Holly’s son Jim, and just like their fathers, the two shared numerous connections, interests and similarities.*

would suggest. It also tells us that he truly saw himself as a decoy-maker, and everything that went with that. It suggests that he was proud of his trade and his craft, his ability to provide the tools that meant livelihood and sport for so many, and his success in his chosen occupation.

Additionally, in the only known photograph of Dick Howlett, taken around this same time, circa 1875, he and his young son George are holding carved decoy heads. The fact that he chose to include decoy heads as a photographic accoutrement, of all things possible in his formal portrait, a rare extravagance for families of limited means in the late nineteenth century, is further proof of the importance of decoy-making to his life and livelihood, pride and sense of self, and the esteem in which he held his occupation.

Notably, two others are listed similarly to Dick Howlett in the same 1880 Census. The occupation of Harvey Stevens, owner of the Stevens Decoy Company of Weedsport, New



York, is listed as “Makes decoy ducks.” Harvey and his brother George produced decoys until around 1892. George Peterson, owner of the Detroit, Michigan based decoy company that bore his name, is listed in the census as “Decoy Duck Factory.” Peterson, who launched his operation in 1873 would sell it to Jasper Dodge in 1883.

Like Daddy’s son Jim, Dick’s son George was a well-known carpenter and boat builder. For at least a decade, from the late 1890s until the early 1910s, George H. Howlett and James T. Holly ran the two largest and best-known boat yards in Havre de Grace. In fact, they are the only two Harford County proprietors listed in the wood ship and boat building section of several editions of the *Bureau of Statistics and Information of Maryland*. Their boatyards were in close proximity to one another and they lived only six blocks away from each other, Jim on Market Street, George on Stokes. They must have been fierce competitors in business, but it is easy to imagine them as good-natured rivals and possibly even friends. There was probably more than enough work to go around at that time to keep both of them very busy.

It is certainly possible, perhaps even probable, that George made decoys too, following in his father’s footsteps, just as Jim, William and John, Jr. did. At the very least, given his occupation and that of his father, it is likely that George assisted Dick in the decoy shop from time to time, and that his able hands contributed in some way to the Dick Howlett birds we hold today. George died on September 6, 1939, just four years after Jim Holly passed away on May 3, 1935.

On November 27, 1895, Dick came down suddenly with typhoid fever, referred to as typhoid pneumonia in the late 19th century. He died at his home from its complications eight days later, at 9:30 p.m. on December 5. He was just 65. His obituary states that son George was taken ill before his father, and so it’s likely that he contracted it from him. Dick’s funeral service, conducted by the Pennington Funeral Home at the Methodist Episcopal Church, was a large and crowded affair. Like Daddy Holly, he is buried at Angel Hill Cemetery, but there is no headstone. Among his pallbearers were members of the Morgan and Barnes families, both prominent and early Havre de Grace waterfowling clans. Dick Howlett was clearly a well-known and well-liked man as his death was noted in both *The Havre de Grace Republican* and *The Aegis & Intelligencer*, which respectively called him “a quiet good citizen” and “one of Havre de Grace’s most respected citizens.”

Fittingly, there were references to duck shooting on the same page as Dick’s death notice in both papers. *The Republican* celebrated the fact that Havre de Grace had been featured in *The Baltimore World* daily, a notable statewide newspaper, just one week prior, concluding with the fact that “Havre de Grace is noted as a great ducking center and enjoys a national

reputation in that respect.” *The Aegis & Intelligencer* noted that “Ducks are very scarce this week. Five pair prime canvass back ducks bought by Mr. Thomas Tydings, on Tuesday, cost him forty dollars. At this rate they will be worth ten dollars per pair before Christmas. The ducks seem plentiful on the river but are shy, and it is almost impossible to get within gun shot of them.”

## Holly or Howlett?

As humans, it is in our nature to be sure, to be certain. We are hardwired to organize, compartmentalize, and label the world around us. This allows us to process and synthesize the overwhelming amount of ideas, information, and material we encounter. As decoy collectors, we want to be able to make positive and accurate attributions of the birds we encounter. It makes it easier for us to check them off the mental or actual lists we keep. Similarly, for dealers and auction houses, this certainty facilitates filling out a tag or catalog description, which can increase interest and boost sales. For museums, it means surety and accuracy in narrative and interpretation on signage and placards, and being able to present definitive information to the public. All of this helps explain why there may be an inclination to misattribute a decoy out of convenience, lack of information or just plain confusion.

In his pioneering 1978 book, *Decoys of the Susquehanna Flats and Their Makers*, Evans McKinney writes that: “Daddy’ Holly and Dick Howlett were born within ten years of one another, and considerable similarity is found in their decoys. Sometimes a Holly decoy is called a Howlett and vice versa.” McKinney theorized that Howlett learned decoy making from Holly, or that, at the very least, he was heavily influenced by his work because of the “considerable likeness in body shape, length and width” between their birds. Exact details on the nature of their relationship and the formality of any apprenticeship or working arrangement are likely to remain unknown. But the facts we do know and, more than that, the similarities between documented examples of their decoys extant, all suggest some degree of a working relationship that was real and strong and lasting between the two men.

Just as with the broad range of styles attributed to Daddy Holly, a wide variety of decoys have been attributed to Dick Howlett over the years. Some of these have a distinct look, suggesting they are by the same maker, though not necessarily by Howlett. These birds feature squat bodies, slightly on the smaller side, with flat, smooth backs and tails that sweep down into a rounded point. They typically have folky, unrefined heads with flat sides, and bills with a pronounced “Roman” style nose that slope downward, as if the duck is staring into the water. Decoys of this style have been found near Lake Koshkonong, Wisconsin. Other “Howlett” decoys





*Over the years, a wide range of decoy styles have been attributed to Dick Howlett. These decoys may be Howletts, Hollys, collaborative efforts between known makers and apprentices or shop assistants, or possibly the work of completely different carvers. Collections of Steve Brown (left) and Kevin Peel (middle, right).*

seem to be simply Daddy Holly bodies with obviously non-Daddy Holly heads. For years, it seemed that any decoy that looked almost good enough to be a Daddy Holly but which had a cruder, exaggerated or less refined head was attributed to Dick Howlett. A close look at the examples in Mackey's book, McKinney's book and others known in collections today, however, suggests that this probably isn't the case.

It's possible that some of the decoys attributed to Howlett do have a connection to him, perhaps early examples when he was still refining his craft, part of a rig made more quickly and thus less carefully than was typical, or part of a rig made in conjunction with a less experienced helper or apprentice (possibly son George). Given the style and quality of the aforementioned examples, however, it is perhaps more

likely that these birds, or at least the unrefined heads with disproportionately large or long bills, are the work of a hunter or guide, not a professional decoy maker.

Interestingly, what many collectors consider to be the "classic" early Daddy Holly style is, in most respects, indistinguishable from the style that Mackey, McKinney and other early and well-respected scholars have long associated with Dick Howlett, presumably birds handed down to them with early and accurate provenance. The Howlett canvasback in McKinney's collection and pictured in his book is virtually indistinguishable from the classic "Daddy" Holly can illustrated in Bobby Richardson's *Chesapeake Bay Decoys: The Men Who Made and Used Them*, formerly in the collections of Art Patterson and Vance Strausburg. And a close look, for example, at the Holly and Howlett decoys from the Howard Foreaker collection – pictured on the same page of David and Joan Hagan's *Upper Chesapeake Bay Decoys and Their Makers* – shows two nearly identical birds.



*Canvasback decoy, circa 1850s-1860s, clearly influenced by the work of John "Daddy" Holly and attributed to Dick Howlett.*



All of these early Daddy Holly/Dick Howlett decoys are completely handmade; chopped out with a hatchet and finished with drawknife, spoke-shave, wood rasp and carving knife. They are almost all on the smaller size, with well sculpted, squat bodies ranging in length from about 11 to 12 inches long, 5½ to 6½ inches wide, and 3½ to 4½ inches thick. Heads are about 3 inches tall, attached on a slightly downward angle with one long nail through the top and two smaller nails through the front of the neck. Additionally, Daddy is one of a handful of Upper Bay makers who are known, at least on occasion, to have driven a nail up into the head from the bottom before it was attached to provide additional stability in the event of neck cracking or breakage.

The only firmly documented Dick Howlett canvasback decoy (discussed in detail, below), measures 13¾ inches long overall, with a body length of 11½ inches. Body width at the widest point is 6 inches and body thickness at the center point is 4¼ inches. The head is 3⅛ inches high from the base of the body, measuring 5½ inches long and 1½ inches thick. The tapered blacksmith-forged ballast keel weight is 5½ inches long. It is seemingly identical to the ballast weights found on many early Holly decoys. There is an old ring and staple affixed for line tie attachment, along with remnants of an older leather thong and evidence of where at least two even older thongs or line ties were once attached. Atop of some 15 or 20 layers of ancient overpaint, the bird appears to be in a very old and early style repaint by Jim Currier. It is crusty and hit with shot in several places.

While we unfortunately have only one definitively confirmed Howlett canvasback, we have many well documented canvasback decoys widely accepted as the work of Daddy Holly. And, thanks to the PDCA's exhibit at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and access to the more than 100 examples of John Daddy Holly's decoys that it contains, we are able to make a more informed comparison between the work of the two men. Taking an average of the measurements from a sample

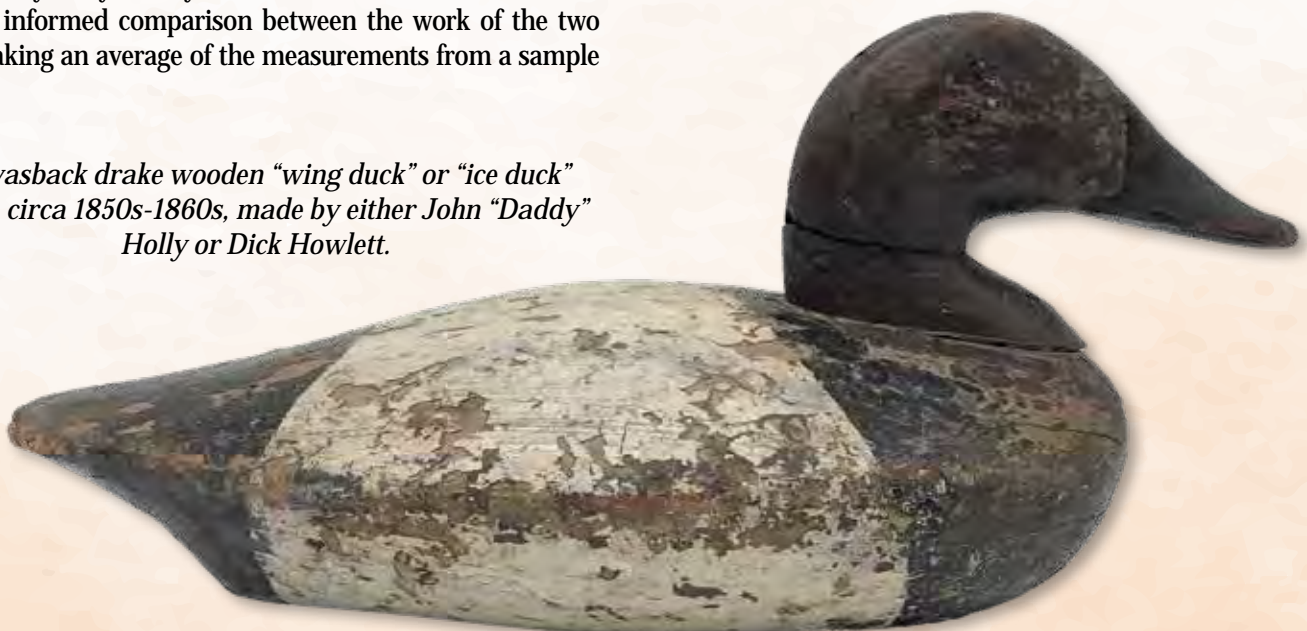


*Two views of Mackey's Howlett canvasback in profile. In many respects, the decoy is virtually indistinguishable from the decoys attributed to John "Daddy" Holly.*

size of more than 20 John "Daddy" Holly canvasback decoys dating to his early period (circa 1850s-1860s), the same time-period when the Howlett can was most likely made, we find the following: an average body length of just over 12 inches and an average body width of just under 6¼ inches.

Compared to the same measurements made of the documented Howlett, this shows a difference of only half an inch in body length and just a quarter of an inch difference in body width. More than that, beyond similarities in length and width, the overall shape (as McKinney and others noted) and nearly every angle, line, proportion, and dimension are

*Canvasback drake wooden "wing duck" or "ice duck" decoy, circa 1850s-1860s, made by either John "Daddy" Holly or Dick Howlett.*





comparable. And beyond the nearly identical measurements and dimensions, a close and careful visual examination and comparison of Mackey's Howlett to other works that appear to be close to Daddy Holly's decoys, but just slightly different, provides perhaps more evidence of their actual authorship.

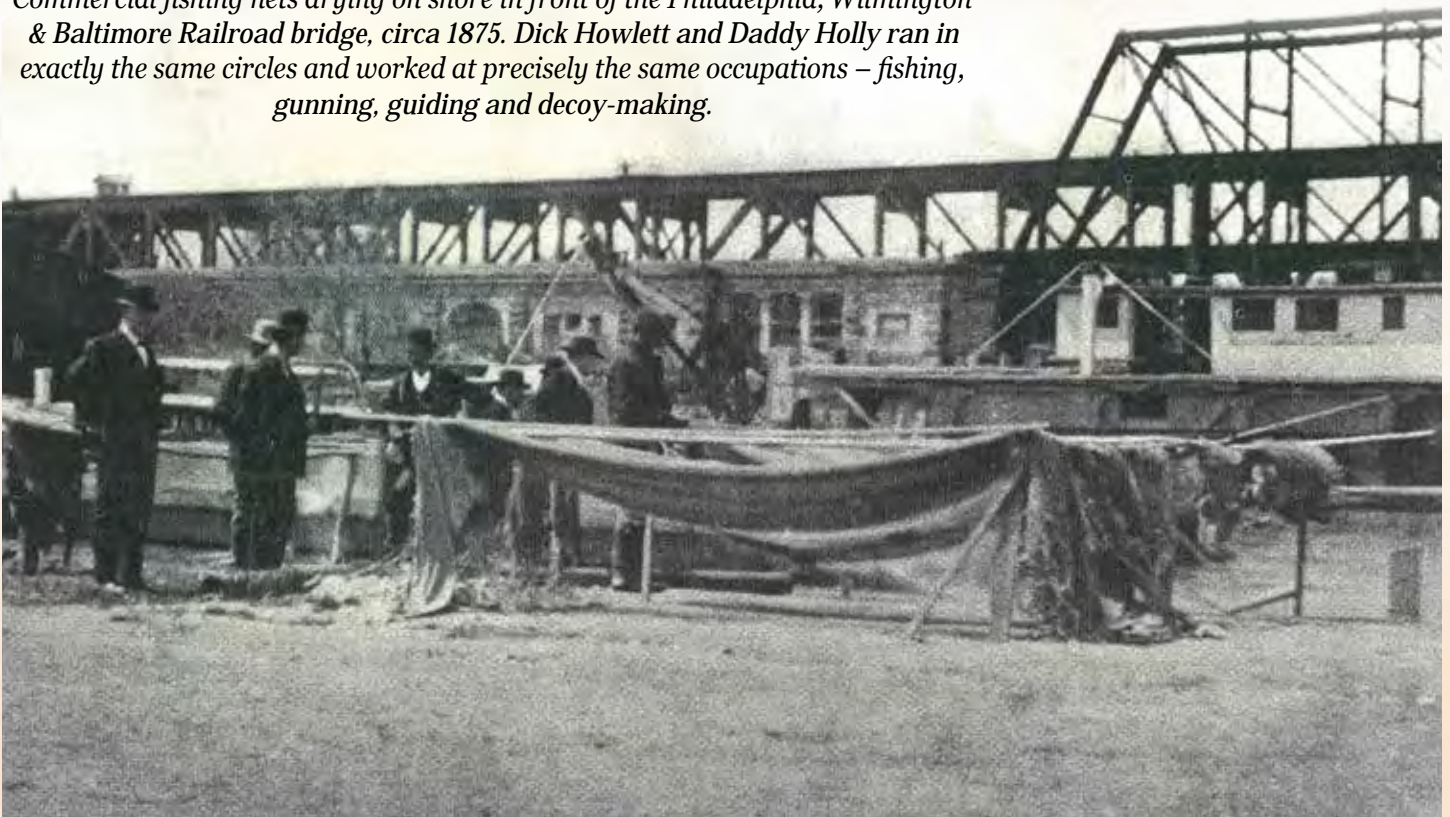
It is likely that Howlett made mostly canvasbacks, followed by redheads and bluebills, which would have been in keeping with the species most desired and most pursued in his day. It is certainly possible that he made species beyond these, presumably goldeneyes, black ducks, and teal, which were all being made by Daddy Holly, albeit in very small numbers. We don't know if Howlett ever carved miniatures, but given the timeframe in which he was active, his focus and prolificity, it's a good bet that he did. Very early vintage miniature canvasbacks are known in collections that come close to Daddy Holly's style, but appear just different enough that an attribution to Howlett could logically be made.

Howlett also produced wooden wing-ducks, and iron sinkbox decoys cast on their patterns are found in collections today. Howlett's earliest decoys originally had rawhide leather line ties affixed with a nail and iron ballast weights; his later birds would have featured a ring and staple for line attachment and lead ballast weights. Some of the decoys attributed to Howlett have been found with a variety of thin wooden keels running the length of the bottom. These may have been original but were more likely added later by hunters in response to local gunning conditions.

Both Daddy and Dick primed their decoys with a basecoat of white or gray lead paint and used simple paint patterns, typical of the period. Some very late original paint examples attributed to Daddy do feature full wing detail and feather patterns on both hens and drakes. Some of these, however, appear to be too late to have been made by either Daddy or Dick and are likely the work of one of Daddy's sons. Most birds by Daddy and Dick have painted eyes. Some have no eyes and others have been found with tack eyes or impressed eyes that appear to be original. And while neither man is thought to have carved nostrils or lower mandibles into his bills, at least not routinely, examples featuring one or both are found from time to time.

Among the brands and marks found on decoys attributed to Howlett are "A. H. McDaniel," for Aubrey Henry McDaniel, who gunned the Flats in the 1880s-1890s, "JG" for John Sterett Gittings Sr. (1798-1879), a banker who owned waterfront property on the Gunpowder Neck, or possibly Jurgen Gates, a circa 1875 gunner from Harford County, and "CC" for Cliff Cooper, a hunter from Cecil County who maintained a large rig. Howlett decoys with early gunning scow brands are also known, including Widgeon and Twilight. Examples branded "COOK", "F. COXX", "L.S." and "WISL" have also surfaced. Some marked with a carved "H" or "RH" on the bottom or under the tail are thought to be from Dick's own gunning rig. Additionally, some of the very early Susquehanna Flats canvasback decoys found in Lake Koshkonong, Wisconsin have been attributed to Howlett.

*Commercial fishing nets drying on shore in front of the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad bridge, circa 1875. Dick Howlett and Daddy Holly ran in exactly the same circles and worked at precisely the same occupations – fishing, gunning, guiding and decoy-making.*







*Both Howlett and Holly were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Havre de Grace, and both are buried at Angel Hill Cemetery.*

Aside from the similarity in their decoys, it is easy to understand why McKinney's supposition about Daddy's influence on Dick may well be true. Dick was about 11 years younger than Daddy, but they ran in exactly the same circles and worked at precisely the same occupations – fishing, gunning, guiding and decoy-making. They were both life-long residents of the same small town, they lived in fairly close proximity to one another, both had sons in the boat-building business, and they died within 3 years of each other (Daddy in 1892, Dick in 1895). Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Havre de Grace, and both are buried at Angel Hill Cemetery – appropriately, overlooking their beloved Susquehanna Flats.

Given what we know about the frequent collaboration between and tight knit relationships among many early Susquehanna Flats decoy makers, it's quite possible, perhaps even probable, that Holly and Howlett worked together at some point. And as one of the earliest known makers in Havre de Grace, it's not at all surprising that Howlett would have emulated Daddy Holly's effective and pioneering style. The same could hold true for other contemporaries of Holly and Howlett, such as William "Fordy" Barnes (1815-1885), William H. Dobson (1834-1904), and members of the Bishop, Morgan, and Knight families, who are all thought to have been making decoys around the same early time period. Could one or more of these men have worked alongside Dick Howlett as other proteges of John Daddy Holly? It is entirely possible.

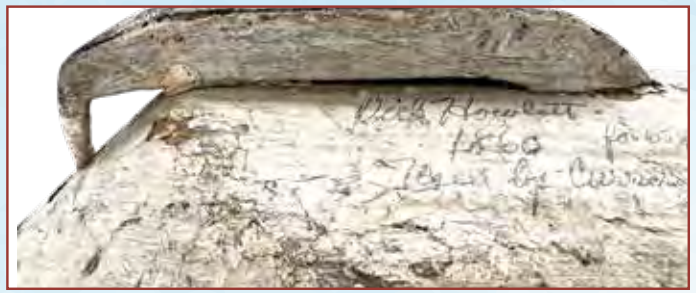
Regarding Daddy's influence on Howlett, McKinney goes on to note that "Some variations in the shape of the head is the only appreciable difference in their decoys and doubtlessly, many Holly decoys have been mistaken for Howlett's and vice versa." This observation by one of the foremost authorities on the subtle differences between the creations of the Susquehanna Flats' most notable decoy makers is telling. For, if it was difficult for the learned McKinney to assign attribution with any certainty 50 years closer to the period when these decoys were made and used, it is even more difficult to do so today.

## Bill Mackey's Howlett Canvasback

Fortunately, there is at least one indisputable example of a Dick Howlett decoy that can be traced directly back to Howlett himself. And thus, we have clues that help today's collectors get closer to a positive and accurate attribution (see below). Still, in spite of having this iron clad model, in many cases, we simply may never know. And just as it is sometimes safest to ascribe certain birds as being made by "the Holly Family" instead of by a particular member, it may also be most accurate to attribute many of the birds we previously called Daddy Hollies instead to Holly/Howlett.



Not that it was done maliciously or even consciously, but over the years, it's almost as if the decoy community has slowly been writing Dick Howlett off the map and out of his rightful place in decoy making history. In fact, misattribution of Howlett's decoys has become so commonplace, that when the canvasback with what is arguably the clearest and strongest provenance of any Howlett, and a bird with one of the most definitive attributions of any early Flats decoy, sold at a Guyette & Schmidt auction in November, 2006, it was attributed to John Graham. The Howlett in question is illustrated and fully documented in William F. Mackey, Jr.'s 1965 book, *American Bird Decoys*. It is a canvasback drake made by Howlett, taken from his own rig and given by Howlett himself to a young Jim Currier as a gunning bird, a keepsake and perhaps a carving model. James Alexander Currier (1886-1969), was a Havre de Grace postman who would eventually become the town's postmaster, as well as a revered decoy-maker in his own right. Mackey obtained the bird directly from Currier on one of his many collecting trips to Havre de Grace in the late 1950s.



Several views of the only firmly documented Dick Howlett canvasback decoy, circa 1860, originally collected by Bill Mackey.



About this notable bird, Mackey writes: “Any documented decoys of the mid-nineteenth century are interesting and rare, and oversized duck decoys made for use on Chesapeake Bay are all but unknown. The decoy in Plate 121, made in 1850-1860 by Dick Howlett, falls into both these rare categories. After being retired by its maker and original user, it was given to Jim Currier, of Havre de Grace, Maryland, who treasured it for sixty-five years. It is a forerunner of all the tens of thousands of decoys made in the towns skirting the Susquehanna Flats since Dick Howlett’s day. These decoys remain basically unchanged after a century. Even the earliest examples had the broad beam that made for stability on rough water. In their subtleties and their interesting historical background, these decoys make for a fascinating field of collecting. They and their kind furnished sport and recreation for such notables as Presidents Grant and Cleveland, and are even more prized by today’s collectors.”



*Mackey’s Howlett canvasback exhibits a precisely incised “V” carved under the bill where it meets the head, the point facing toward the end of the bill. Some collectors believe this is a clue in identifying Howlett’s decoys, and perhaps differentiating them from those of Daddy Holly.*

The example Mackey collected is wonderful in so many respects, not the least of which is its indisputable authorship and traceability. He notes that it is larger than the typical canvasback decoys being made at this time (maybe slightly, but probably not as the comparative measurement previously discussed suggests), but as he observed, it has been “repainted at least twenty times.” Appealingly, an ancient break in the middle of the bill has been carefully secured with several inches of thin twine. This bird also exhibits a precisely incised “V” carved under the bill where

it meets the head, the point facing toward the end of the bill. Some collectors believe this is another clue to identifying Howlett’s decoys, and perhaps differentiating them from those of Daddy Holly and other makers.

Apparently, Mackey wasn’t the only collector who thought this bird is a gem. The Howlett canvasback, estimated at only \$750-\$950 in the aforementioned 2006 auction when Mackey’s son elected to consign a handful of decoys he had kept in the family, ended up selling to an appreciative and most determined bidder for an astounding \$10,235. That winning bidder turned out to be Michigan collector Ron Swanson (1939-2022), who over the years assembled a wonderful collection of early Upper Chesapeake Bay decoys. When it sold again in 2018 as part of a group of four Susquehanna Flats canvasbacks from Swanson’s collection, the lot brought another surprising and very respectable \$7,800, despite an estimate of only \$400-\$600. It’s a beat up, repainted and repaired old canvasback drake decoy, not unlike thousands and thousands of others out there widely available to collectors for a few hundred dollars at best. But there is something special about this old bird. Mackey thought so, and so did Swanson. And, I suspect other passionate and dedicated collectors will continue to feel the same way about it in the years to come.

Interestingly, in his book, Mackey dedicates more space and puts more focus on Dick Howlett than Daddy Holly, of whom he writes: “A bayman about whom the older members of the Havre de Grace ducking fraternity always speak with reverence was “Daddy” Holly, who passed away when they were youngsters. Holly was an old man by the year 1900. He knew as much about the Flats and gunning as any man. His first rig could have been the decoys that set the traditional local style for the next century.” It’s important to remember that early collectors like Mackey were blazing the trail and they didn’t get everything right. They were relying largely on the information, perspectives and opinions of others, those local primary sources they met, interviewed, and on occasion purchased or obtained decoys from. And since Mackey, George Starr, Adele Earnest, and Joel Barber before them, were covering a wide range of regions and makers, they were only able to go so deep. They needed to sort out fact from fiction, synthesize and put the information they received into context, and try not to let the personal beliefs and opinions of those they met, relied on, and trusted sway their interpretation in presenting reliable, accurate information. With the benefit of hindsight, we also know that they had to contend with their own ego, bias and self-interest. Not an easy task to say the least, but we should applaud their efforts and the foundation they laid for later and continued scholarship.



A point worth considering is that, while Dick was clearly influenced by Daddy early on, he may have changed his style over his very long and prolific decoy-making career. His 1895 obituary notes that while Howlett was “formerly a noted gunner and giller, of late years [he] has employed himself in boat-building and decoy-making, in which he ranked as an expert,” which shows he was actively making decoys up until the time he died. As with most makers who produced decoys over a long period of time (in Howlett’s case, for at least 25-30 years and likely much longer), it is logical to assume that his style changed and evolved with the prevailing and preferred styles over the years. In Havre de Grace, this meant a shift from the shorter, squatter decoys most associated with Daddy Holly to the longer, sleeker and more streamlined birds that Jim Holly is best known for and credited with popularizing.

Therefore, we must consider a bold possibility regarding Howlett’s decoys. If his earlier birds were close in shape, size and style to Daddy’s, it stands to reason that his later, circa 1890s decoys may have been closer in style to Jim’s. Could this help explain some of the decoys that are too late to be made by Daddy, but not quite of the style we associate with the early work of Jim Holly, Sam Barnes, and others? This opens up a whole host of questions, propositions, and challenges to positively identifying at least some of the decoys by all of these makers. The research, careful study, supposition, and discussion among collectors will most assuredly continue.

As a commercial decoy maker for several decades, Dick Howlett must have made thousands of birds. And yet, a scant few turn up ascribed to him today. While Howlett decoys seem rare, this is not because they are scarce in reality, but only scarce in correct attribution. As collectors, we must acknowledge that many of the “Daddy Holly” decoys found in collections and museums, on dealer’s tables and websites, and listed in auction catalogs are, in fact, Dick Howlett’s. To quote McKinney once more, “Sometimes a Holly decoy is called a Howlett and vice versa.” The fact is, we will never know with absolute certainty and, quite frankly, I don’t think Daddy or Dick would mind.

While Dick Howlett’s influence and output may not have been as great as Daddy’s, the contributions that he made to Havre de Grace decoy-making and Chesapeake Bay waterfowling were still quite significant. His life and work are worthy of our remembrance and his rightful place in history deserves to be honored today. Collectors and museum curators must reflect on the very real probability that if they have a great “Daddy Holly” decoy on their shelves, they may well in fact have an equally great “Dick Howlett” decoy.

## Those are my decoys!

In the chapter on the Susquehanna Flats in *Chesapeake Bay Decoys: The Men Who Made and Used Them* (1973, edited by Robert H. Richardson), Norris E. Pratt includes a wonderful story told to him by the dean of the Havre de Grace School of decoy making, Madison Mitchell. This memorable tale is recounted here as Dick Howlett decoys feature prominently.

“There’s a tale that circulates in hunting circles that may be appropriately told here. One day, long ago, a famous outfitter was startled when an acquaintance burst into his shop in an agitated manner with a long, sad tale of woe. The acquaintance claimed he needed money desperately, and offered to sell 165 decoys for 65 cents each. Suspecting that the desperation had been induced by a strong desire for whiskey, the outfitter tried to soothe and talk him out of selling the rig. What would he do for a living when the hunting season began? But the man persisted, and the outfitter, knowing a bargain when he saw one, bought the decoys. Although they were excellent decoys, they showed use. He made the necessary repairs, repainted them and readied them for a purchaser. One day, just before the season opened, the local judge burst into his shop in an agitated manner with a long, sad tale of woe. All his decoys had been stolen, and he would have to buy new ones. Without so much as a blink, the outfitter showed the judge his new purchase. ‘Those are my decoys,’ said the judge. ‘I can identify them, even painted.’ ‘Are they?’ responded the outfitter. ‘Tommy sold them to me several weeks ago.’ ‘Tommy? He’s my sculler, and the best dang sculler in the world!’ Now the judge faced a dilemma. If he had Tommy arrested and allowed him to languish in jail, the judge would have to find another sculler, most likely one not nearly so skilled. There are two kinds of justice, legal and poetic. The judge waxed poetic. He bought back his decoys, and when he was ready to hunt, he handed them over to Tommy without so much as a blink. Now, Tommy knew the judge and the outfitter both knew the story – and were letting him ‘stew in his own juice.’ This story can be verified, but the names were changed to protect the innocent. The story is particularly interesting to collectors since the decoys in question had been made by Dick Howlett of Havre de Grace, who is documented in William Mackey’s book.”

Portions of this article were adapted from material previously published in Decoy Magazine and The Canvasback. The author wishes to thank the members of the Holly, Drennen and Howlett families he interviewed who were so generous with their time and information. Special thanks also to the staff, board, curatorial committee and volunteers of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, Henry Peden, C. John Sullivan Jr, the late J. Evans McKinney, Kevin Peel, Michael Daley, Chris Nelson, Bill Cordrey, Joe Engers, Drew Hawkins, the late Ron Swanson and the Historical Society of Harford County.





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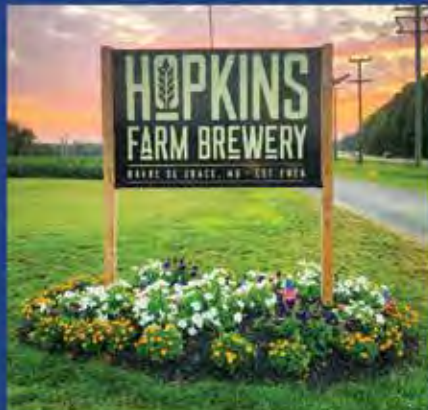
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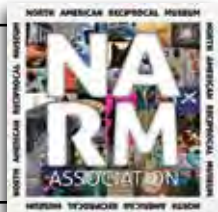
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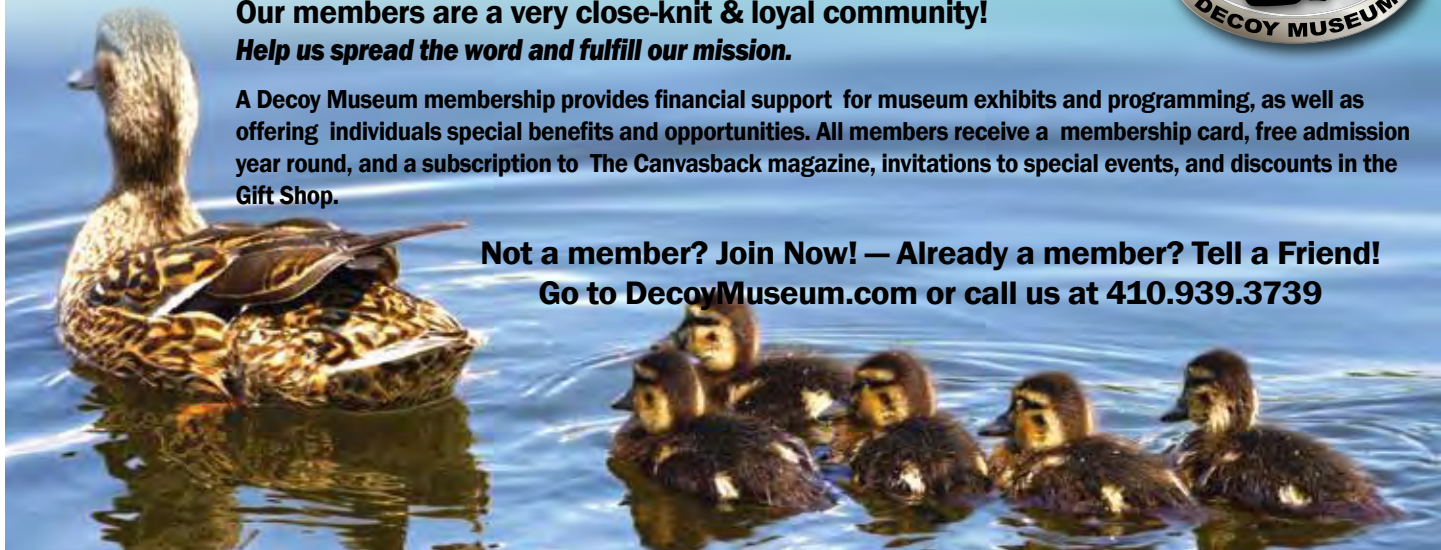
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# Ed Henry Memorial Clay Shoot

*By: Mike Tarquini*

Edward George Alexander Henry was a stalwart for both the Billy Comegys - Queen Anne's County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited and the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum's annual clay shoots, raising significant funds for both organizations. Unfortunately, Ed Henry passed away at the age of 80 on January 19, 2023. Ducks Unlimited and the Decoy Museum came together on October 8, 2023 to co-sponsor a clay shoot in his memory at Schrader's Outdoors in Henderson, MD.

On a crisp autumn morning complete with a steady breeze, approximately 120 shooters assembled to compete in a 3-bird, 99 target event for a selection of sporting gun and decoy prizes. Three Lewis Classes competed as well as a Ladies Class. A Side by Side and Pump competition was also held. A raffle was held for a Charles Daley pump shot gun and a Sean Mann duck call specially engraved to commemorate the event.

## **Prizes were awarded to the following competitors:**

High Score (Museum Member): .....**Mark Wells** (87)

High Score (Non-Museum Member): **Doug Bramble** (90)

### **1st Lewis Class**

First Prize: .....**Doug Bramble** (90)

Second Prize: .....**Robert Crow** (89)

Third Prize:.....**Kenneth Ahdoot** (87)

### **2nd Lewis Class**

First Prize:.....**Ben Spurry** (70)

Second Prize:.....**Larry Faulkner** (70)

Third Prize:.....**Shawn Nordhoff** (69)

### **3rd Lewis Class**

First Prize:.....**Perry Dunaway** (59)

Second Prize:.....**Michael Callahan** (58)

Third Prize:.....**Greg Clark** (57)

### **Ladies Class**

First Place: .....**Amy Crow** (76)

Second Place:.....**Orenda Love** (68)

Side by Side Winner: .....**Bryan Brady** (24)

Team Winner:.....**Fang Cambell, Scott Hickman,  
Brandon Lancaster, Danny Truitt** (306)



*Captain Bill Collins prepares lunch for the group.*



*Gun Prizes*



*Sporting Clay Launcher*





*1st Prize Ladies - Amy Crow*



*Tim Hause awards Mark Wells (High Score Museum Member) 1st Prize*



*Decoy Prizes*

Captain Bill Collins and David "T-Bone" Handly led a capable team of volunteers who prepared and served lunch to all participants. They grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for approximately 140 people when all trappers and volunteers were taken into account.

Nancy Henry was on-hand to honor her late husband and was greeted by the many acquaintances they had made over the years.

All, in all the event was a success thanks to the unwavering dedication of Tim Hause (Billy Comegys Chapter of Ducks Unlimited) and Bob Haase (Havre de Grace Decoy Museum). Proceeds from the clay shoot were split between the two organizations. Jack Kemp and the entire staff at Schrader's Outdoors ensured that the event took place without incident.

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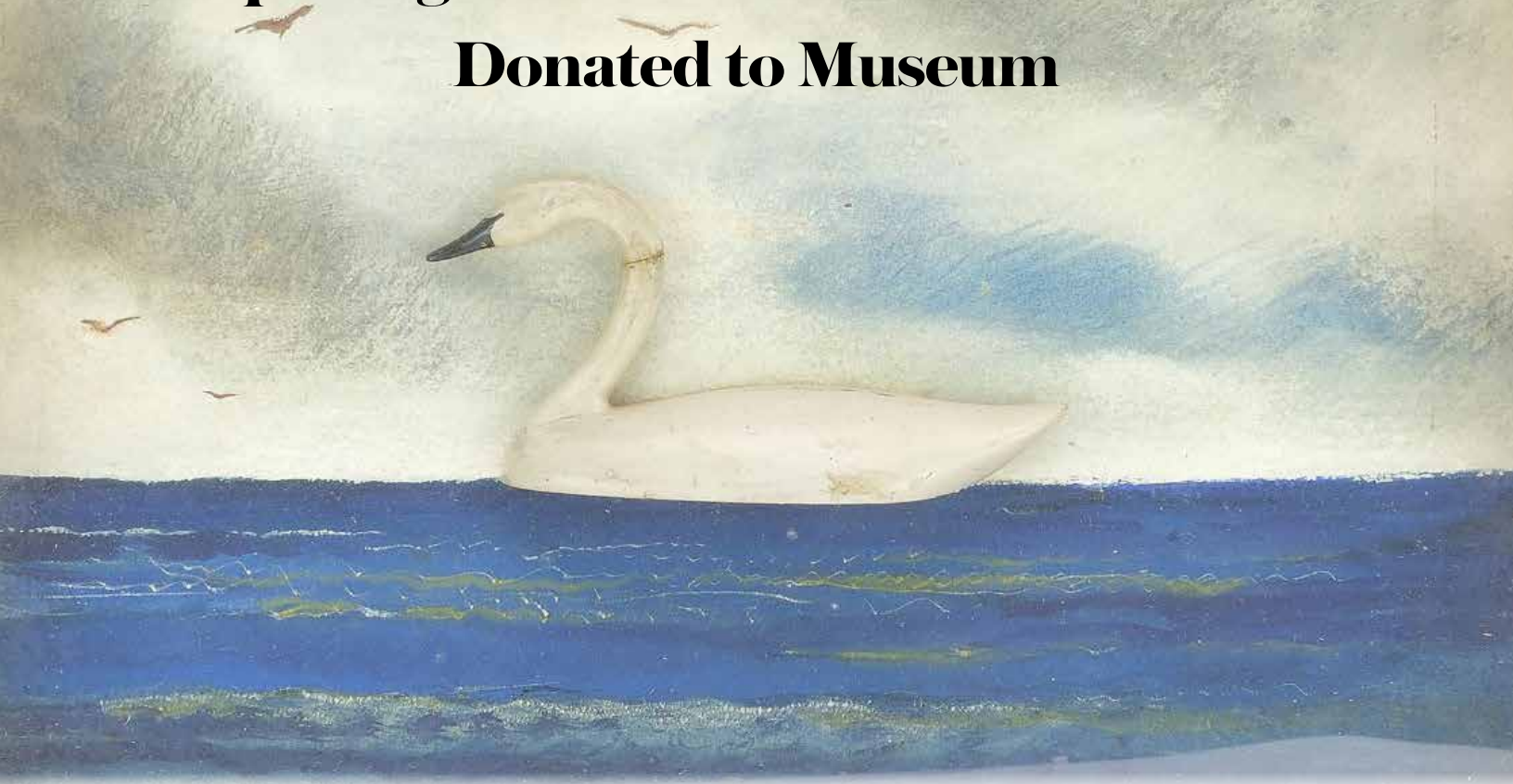
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# Important Works by *Joel Barber*

## Depicting Classic “Havre de Grace Swan” Donated to Museum



By: Chad Tragakis

Pioneering decoy collector Joel Barber knew greatness when he saw it. On one of his early decoy collecting trips to Havre de Grace, Maryland, he came across a swan decoy that captured his heart and inspired his artistic soul. In his landmark 1934 book, *Wild Fowl Decoys*, he gleefully recounts the story of its discovery, adorning the side yard garden of retired market gunner Bennett Keen, and the negotiation that ensued so that it could be added to his growing flock. And it was none other than Barber's friend, decoy maker Bob McGaw, who fashioned a custom wooden crate in which the treasure could be safely shipped to New York by express rail the next day.

Made by either Sam Barnes or Jim Holly around 1890, the majestic swan became one of Barber's very favorites, enjoying a place of honor and prominence in his home atop a rosewood cabinet. It was pictured in his book and in numerous other publications on Barber's passion for wooden birds and was a highlight in many of the early exhibitions featuring pieces from his collection.

Over the course of his collecting and artistic career, Barber would revisit the elegant lines, form and styling of the iconic swan time and time again, working in a variety of mediums and in a range of different sizes.



Among the works he created that celebrated his amazing find are a small elevation (or architectural drawing) of “the Havre de Grace swan” dating to 1937, and a fantastic little mixed-media shadowbox with a painted background of the Susquehanna Flats, featuring a carved 5-inch-long miniature version of the swan, probably made at around the same time.

These items had remained in the Barber family for decades, but I have to think that even Joel himself would agree that they really belonged in Havre de Grace. More than that, they belong in the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, the institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the decoy-making traditions of the Upper Chesapeake Bay region. That is precisely what Henry and Judy Stansbury realized when these works were being auctioned off in November, and thanks to their incredible generosity and foresight, that is exactly where they are going!

At the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association’s November meeting in Annapolis, Henry and Judy formally presented three works – the swan drawing and swan shadowbox, along with a third work, an original 1928 color illustration of a Saskatchewan, Canada mallard head decoy – to Mike Tarquini, president of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, David Farrow, museum board member and chair of the curatorial committee, and John Henry, museum board member and member of the curatorial committee.

On behalf of every member of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and the entire decoy collecting community, we thank Henry and Judy for their generosity and commitment to preserving decoy history for generations to come.



### **Presentation of Joel Barber artifacts to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum by Henry and Judy Stansbury.**

*Pictured left to right: Judy Stansbury, David Farrow (Museum Board Member), Henry Stansbury, Mike Tarquini (Museum Board President), and John Henry (Museum Board Member).*





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# Saving Bits & Pieces of Our Heritage

By: C. John Sullivan, Jr.

I have written of the value of primary source material, and I have mentioned its value in my remarks to various collector groups. With the passage of time, I have come to realize more and more that the chances of this history disappearing from the sight of future generations grow exponentially. These pieces of the history of our waterfowling legacy need to be shared and not tucked away from the sight of others.

It goes without saying that I have been extremely fortunate in becoming the custodian of this material. When my mother and grandmother passed along to me their daily journals, they left me the details of their lives. Knowing that my mother was driving my grandfather's 1919 Ford Model TT truck home from the Quaker meeting house in Northern Harford County in 1924 at age 12 puts a smile upon my face. It was just a few days after that that my grandfather was shooting in a regional turkey shoot. Along with those journals, I became the caretaker of his shotgun and rifle. My paternal grandfather's work logs from his 38 years of work on the Maryland Pennsylvania Railroad now rest on my bookshelves. Those logs give me a detailed glimpse of what his days were like working on that picturesque rail line.

The preservation of the history of waterfowling has become my full-time avocation, and the archives that have come my way are invaluable to this history. When Joel Barber first visited Havre de Grace in the late 1920s, he developed friendships with various members of the waterfowling community. He spent days in the shop of Robert F. McGaw, Jr., and took a number of early Susquehanna Flats decoys back to his home in New York. In a gesture of kindness to McGaw, Barber presented him with the programs from a few of the earliest decoy events in New York City. Those archives are among the many cherished pieces of decoy history that I preserve.

As a young man who demonstrated great enthusiasm in researching early waterfowling history, I was befriended by generous individuals who recognized my keen interest. One kind lady shared with me her family's connection to those early times. Her grandfather had been the gamekeeper at a site on the Gunpowder Neck where a group of wealthy New Yorkers maintained their gunning shores. Benjamin

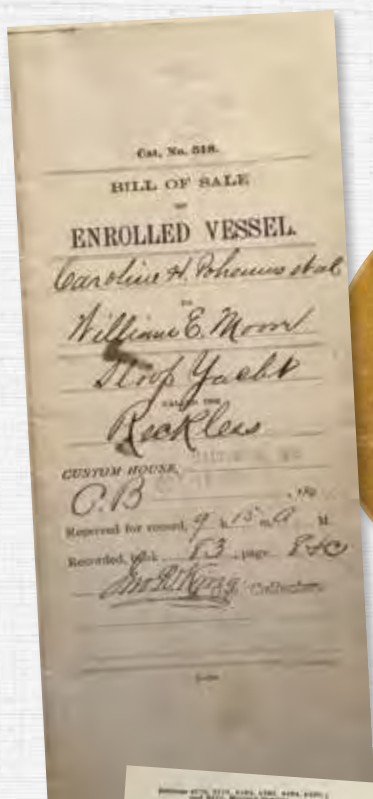


*A few lines dropped to Benjamin Jeffers, "shoreman and keeper" at the San Domingo Farm Club.*

Jeffers was the "shoreman and keeper" at the San Domingo Farm Club. In a little ribbon-bound booklet, the members of that club wrote in rhyming verse a tribute to Jeffers and to each member of the club. The booklet, published in 1897, includes an image of Jeffers and several renderings of flying waterfowl and shorelines and concludes with the lines "and so then, keeper Jeffers, we will be there bye, and bye, when the creeks begin to open and the ducks begin to fly." This extremely rare piece of waterfowling history is a pleasant and charming presentation to the keeper of the shore and demonstrates the tremendous respect and admiration a group of wealthy sports held for their guide. The year prior to publishing the verses to Jeffers, they reported to the local assessor that they had brought with them to their Gunpowder Neck gunning shore the following: 7 Wagons, a pair of bay mules, 2 bay mares, 495 books, 15 guns, 7 rifles, 45 photo-prints and pictures, sundry articles of furniture and boats, carpets, rugs and mats which they valued at \$500, clothing which they valued



Jacket from the Bill of Sale of Enrolled Vessel "Reckless" dated October 16, 1895.



Stern of Sloop Yacht "Reckless".

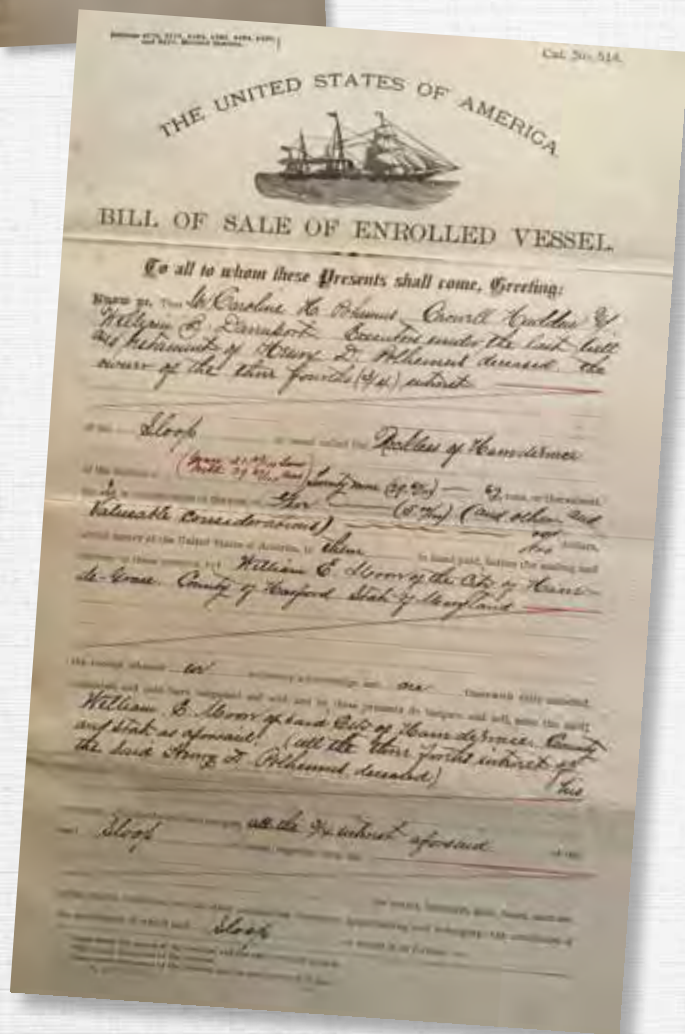
at \$400, etc. They noted in their report to the assessor that 9 of the guns which they valued at \$770 were "temporarily or occasionally here, and were the property of visiting non-residents."

I have been most fortunate in becoming the "caretaker" of another document, the "Bill of Sale of Enrolled Vessel." This document, dated October 16, 1895, provides details of the Sloop or vessel called the Reckless of Havre de Grace. It provides details of the transfer of three-fourths interest of the late Henry D. Polhemus to William E. Moore. It states that the Reckless was built in Havre de Grace in 1880. It wore Yacht License No. 8 issued at the Port of Baltimore on February 11, 1889. The document further certifies that the ship has one deck and one mast and that her length is 62 1/10 feet, her breadth is 17 4/10 feet, her depth 4 feet, and that she measures 29 and 69/100 tons. And, finally, that she is a Sloop Yacht and has a plain head and a square stern. The document contains information and history that only members of the waterfowl community or maritime historians are interested in knowing.

When this information came to me, accompanying it was a group of 14 carte de visites of a day of sinkbox shooting from the Reckless. Among the group is an image of the stern clearly showing the name Reckless on the trail board. Others show freshly killed ducks on the vessel's deck and images showing the steam launch heading to the shore. The water-level pictures give a close-up perspective of the sinkbox along with decoys placed on the sinkbox's wings.

Among the last artifacts that I inherited from my good friend the late Henry A. Fleckenstein, Jr., was the gunning log of the Walnut Grove Ducking Club in Baltimore County. I had it transcribed and published. In addition to that wonderful piece of waterfowling history, another archive that came from Henry was the engine room journal from the Steam Yacht Tech. The Tech was one of the DuPont family's vessels. The log reveals not only the maintenance of the yacht's engine but such details as the polishing of various brass elements within the engine room. The journal lists the various locations of the daily travels and where the Tech anchored each evening: Poplar Island, Cambridge, Annapolis, Solomon's, Claiborne, Thomas Point, Sharps Island, and many other locations. On April 5th of 1932, an entry states "waiting on Capt. Creighton for further orders." When I became the caretaker of this journal, accompanying it were photographs of the vessel and a photo of the crew and Captain in their uniforms. A sad note appears in the ledger on April 1932: "The Tech was totally destroyed by fire in about 20 minutes."

Found among my journal and ledger collection is a diary of A. Raymond Prettyman. Its entries start in 1933 and continue to 1944. The hardback canvas-covered book begins with this entry: "This hunting diary was started on November 16th 1933. I have long intended to do something along this line for reference but have just gotten at it." Prettyman was 48 years old when he began to journal. He along with three friends formed a club. His entries cover each day that he shot, where he shot, and what methods he employed. On November 10th, the author used a term that very few have ever



Bill of Sale of Enrolled Vessel Reckless transferring three quarters ownership from Henry D. Polhemus to William E. Moore of Havre de Grace, MD.





*Steam yacht Tech*

heard: he went out with three others for ducks, and noting that the creek had an abundance of baldpates, the hunters put out 25 blackhead decoys after “chalking” the heads to change the species from blackheads to baldpates. The method was not as successful as they had hoped; they saw baldpates, about a thousand canvasbacks, and 25 to 30 sprig and finished the day with four of them shooting two baldpates. Prettyman included references to his live decoys: in 1933, he had 25 live mallards, many geese in pens, plus 40 geese on cords in addition to the live decoys he and his gunning partners kept at each of their blinds well baited throughout the season. Prettyman’s diary included a detailed list with descriptions of all of his guns. In addition, he kept records of his kennel of Chesapeake Bay dogs.

Although Prettyman maintained his gunning journal through 1944, he lamented the changes to the gunning regulations at the conclusion of the 1935-36 season. His mother had suffered a stroke, his sister had had an operation, and baiting of ducks and geese and the use of live decoys were no longer allowed by Federal regulation, making this a lost season. He had killed 100 groundhogs and 36 squirrels, quail were too scarce to hunt, and he shot only 17 doves, no rabbits, and one goose in two trips. Two trips after ducks gave him one redhead fisherman. “Worst winter in history I think.”

On February 24, 1944, he wrote “Going to try to do better by this diary this year. I didn’t keep any record of crows, hawks, or groundhogs last year, for which I am now sorry.”

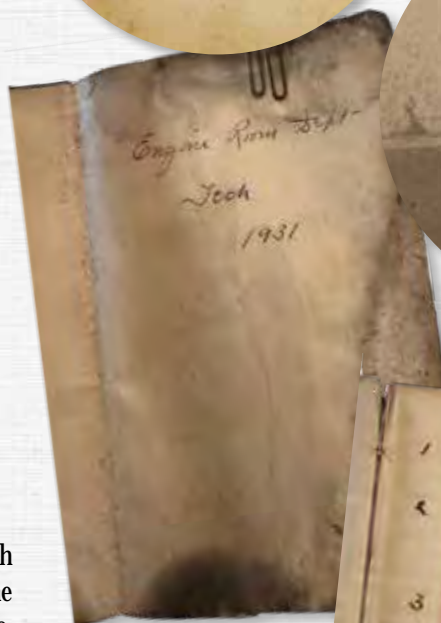
Of keen interest to members of the decoy-collecting community, Raymond Prettyman, who gunned in Cecil County, Maryland, and in or near the Sassafras River, purchased goose decoys in Aberdeen from Albert Thomas for one dollar each, goose decoys from Capt. Gilbert from Havre de Grace for three dollars each, blackduck decoys from J. E. Woodall for 15 dollars, and decoy ducks from Robert F. McGaw for 42 dollars.

These little bits and pieces of our shared history provide glimpses into our waterfowling heritage. As collectors read these entries, they can travel back to a different time and era and hopefully broaden their view of how and where their wooden fowl once lived before moving to their places of honor.

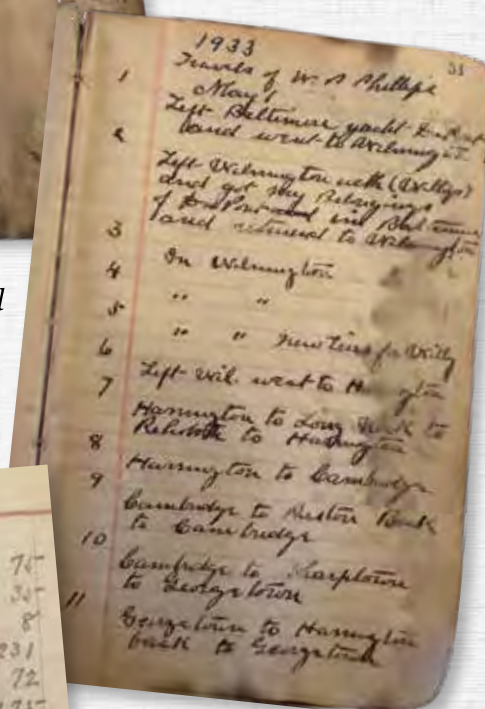


*Freshly killed ducks lie on the deck of “Reckless”.*

*Water-level view giving a close-up perspective of the sinkbox along with decoys placed on the sinkbox’s wings.*



*Engine room journal from the Steam Yacht “Tech”.*



*Journal of travel from the Steam Yacht “Tech”.*

Season 1933-34		
Chickadee		76
Squirrel		30
Quail		8
Snail		231
Wicks		72
Geese		172
Ground Hogs		
My personal season 1934-35		
Ground Hogs		129
Geese		37
Wicks		2
Snail		1
Wicks		2
Geese		44
Squirrels		38
Snail		9
Rabbits		1
Wicks (black)		156
Geese (black)		84

*Entries from the hunting diary of A. Raymond Prettyman 1933 – 1935.*



# Workshop Window

*By Cindy Currier*

## Mark Daisey

Chincoteague, Virginia

In this issue of Workshop Window, we feature the workshop of carver, Mark Daisey. Mark is a lifelong resident of Chincoteague, Virginia and is the son of Herb Daisey, Jr., and nephew of Delbert “Cigar” Daisey.

Mark’s shop sits beside his home and is designed to be similar to Cigar’s. From the welcoming wide open doors to the immaculately neat interior, everything has a place and is a thoughtfully designed balance of form and function. His working area is small and efficiently set up, surrounded by family photos and artifacts as a testament to his roots.

Mark has been carving for forty years. He initially learned how to carve from his father and further refined his craft through Cigar’s guidance. He is a renowned carver, earning a collection of awards and accolades. Please enjoy this visual tour.









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# The Loss of a Friend

*by John Hughes  
All photos by Terri Hughes*

**Biophilia:** A human tendency to interact or be closely associated with other forms of life in nature.

*- E.O. Wilson*

"They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth."

*- Henry Beston, author of *The Outermost House**

"If there ever comes a day when we can't be together, keep me in your heart, I'll stay there forever."

*- Pooh*

## CANVASBACK NATURALIST

Each edition will feature a natural history topic relating to the mission of the museum. The author, **John E. Hughes, Jr.** is a retired science teacher from the John Carroll School (1972-2015). His subject areas included Chesapeake Bay Studies, Ecology (freshwater and marine) and Environmental Science. As a naturalist, John helped to develop natural history programs for a myriad of environmental organizations and schools. As a field educator and canoe guide, he led trips throughout the Eastern United States (especially the Southeast), Central America and the Caribbean. He presently serves as a member of the Museum's Board.



**Author's note:** Good science writing is extremely objective in nature. The writer attempts to cast aside any human bias, especially any emotional prejudice. The outcome is the presenting of facts, data, and/or experimental results. Natural history writing is, however, very different. It provides the reader with science but also adds human interpretation. If science provides the black and white of reality, then natural history writing provides vital living color. The science behind a crashing wave, a colorful sunset, the sounds of a babbling brook, the scent of new-mown hay, and thrill of sighting a playful baby fawn, etc. can be established and presented to the reader. Natural history writing puts the reader into the setting (place) and allows all of the circuits of their senses to maximize. Emotions surface, sometimes to the deepest extent such as love. This is especially true when considering the lifeforms that thrive in nature in general and in dogs in particular.



All my life I have loved interactions with dogs whether it was my grandfather's and uncle's rabbit hound and beagle, my parent's standard poodle, my brother's shitzu, my friend's Pomeranians, golden retrievers, or labs and our (Ann and my) dozen yellow labs, two golden retrievers, and five mixed breeds. I have absorbed lasting impressions from canines visiting our home and the stories they have spawned. I have read and enjoyed many dog books, stories, and articles, oftentimes having tears fall down my face for the last 20+/- pages or final paragraphs. For me the dog/human bond is one based on mutual love. I know the science which explains this 15,000-year evolutionary partnership between dog and man is very unique in nature. However, I have become convinced it is based more on biophilic love of a fellow creature of a different species than mine. I also have felt the love reciprocated back to me by dogs over the years.

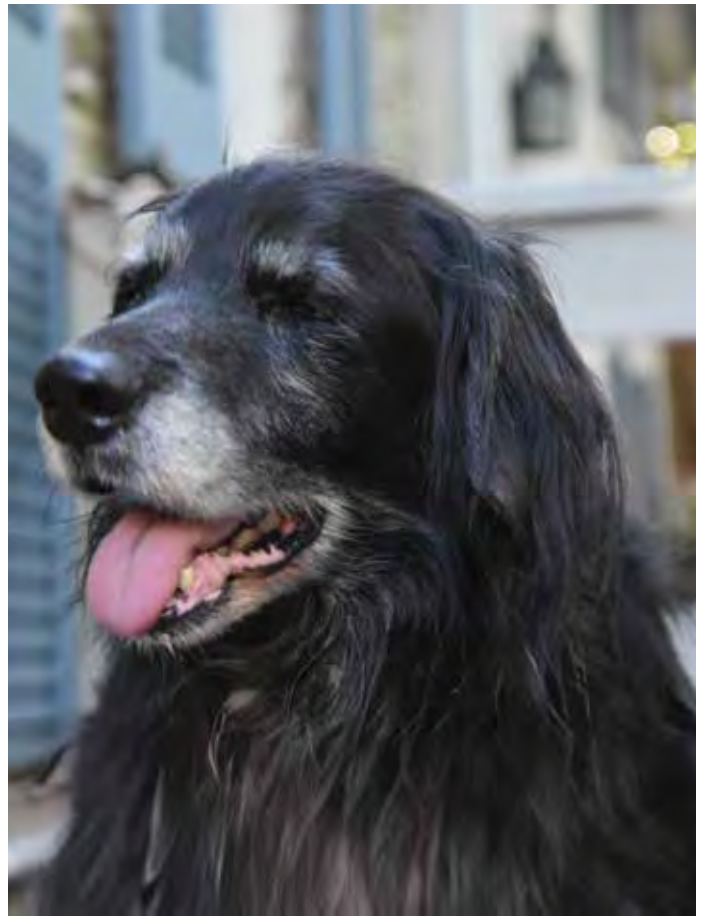
I know I will be accused of being anti-scientific, sentimental, and anthropomorphic. My plea is guilty, and I don't really care what others think. Most people who have experienced this dog/human bond will probably provide witness to my defense. I could have written this account about almost any of the many dogs I have lived with and loved, but I have picked my most recent dog friend – BLACKIE. Since February, I have mourned and tried to cope with the pain of his loss. This article will attempt to share with you, the reader, my feelings on "the loss of a friend."

**BLACKIE:** I first saw Blackie on the Paws for Life's website for dogs for adoption. At that time he was known as Vegas. Young Blackie had been picked up by animal control as a wandering vagrant in Odessa, Delaware and then was turned over to a kill shelter. Fortunately, Blackie was saved



from a lethal fate there by Ginny Cole and brought to Paws for Life in Chesapeake City, Maryland. After inquiring about his availability and discussing our background with Ginny, Ann and I became hopeful that he could join our family. Returning from a birding adventure in the Delaware Bay area, my friend Tom Trafton and I stopped in at Paws as we returned home that afternoon. Blackie was amazing, immediately hopping into the backseat with Tom. After completing his paperwork and providing a contribution for him, we were on our way. Blackie laid out prostate on the back seat with his head on Tom's lap. I turned to make sure everyone was ready, and our eyes made contact. From that moment on, the dog/human bond had been established between Blackie and me and for the next 11+ years it would only become reinforced as one of love. The only unfortunate circumstance of that first day was Blackie vomiting on Tom as he exited the car into his new yard. Over the years, I think Tom found it in his heart to forgive him.

Blackie was a medium-sized mixed breed weighing about 40 pounds. His ancestry was probably one of border collie and spaniel mix. His shiny black coat suggested a possible flat coat retriever contribution, but let it go that he was a mix. A beautiful blaze of white fur was centered on his chest from his neck to his belly. Blackie had a soft mouth and the pinkest tongue I had ever seen. His dark brown eyes were constantly alert to his world and for me they became the entrance to his soul and the gateway to the bond that we would form. Blackie was approximately 2 years old when our relationship began. In writing this article, I asked my human friends what they remembered about Blackie. Greg thought that he was a "cool" dog who always seemed happy while Dave remembered him as handsome and in charge (particularly of the other dogs). Alex liked that he wasn't a barker or beggar like the labs and Blaine was impressed by his intelligence and how he was always within himself never trying to be more than he was. My wife Ann felt he was the sweetest dog, a real gentleman, and she especially loved his demeanor with other dogs and humans. He didn't push himself on any guest, but instead gradually introduced himself in a calm, thoughtful way. To me, Blackie was my smartest, most loyal companion. He seemed to sense how I was feeling at any time and knew just how to cheer me up when I was down. Coming home after work, Blackie's eyes would meet mine and would suggest just how glad he was to see me. In short, he was my most loyal friend, my best listener, and my most committed "buddy". I always thought he was thankful to be with us: my greatest hope is that he knew how thankful we were to have had him.



Blackie wasn't without his share of original sin, but neither am I. The time at a party when he snuck in the kitchen and ate the baked bean/sausage casserole, when he pulled a hamburger off my friend's plate, when he chased the cats out of the house and many other mischievous escapades over the years are all cases in point. I would note that all these situations exhibited his full wonderful smile and when reprimanded, he never sulked. As the years passed, Blackie never seemed to slow down, until about his last month of his life. He may have been stiff and sore, but he never let on to us that it was a problem. In the last few weeks, the steps to the backyard became more and more difficult to navigate. He tried hard to be himself, never defecating in the house, but the biological inevitable with human assistance arrived. Blackie was euthanized under our kitchen table, where he loved to lay. I had said my goodbyes and told him how thankful I was to have shared a portion of my life with him. I told him I loved him and would always cherish the thought of him. I was too weak to stay as the vet ended his life, but my wife Ann was on the floor with him all the way. Blackie is buried in the upper back yard in the dog and cat cemetery. I had dug his grave before his end and made sure to tilt one end of it up so his head would face the rising morning sun. Blackie is gone as a living entity, but his memory is still present. I have lost a dear friend!



**Author's note:** Several months after mourning the loss of Blackie and dealing with the associated pain, I was back at Paws for Life adopting another dog. As "Saint" Ginny showed us the new dog, we shared comments about Blackie (aka Vegas) and Ginny pointed out Blackie's picture on the back of the Paws for Life van. There he was smiling and jumping down the road, a reminder of what once was. A tear rolled down my cheek as I realized life might be much more pre-determined than I think.

Dogs come into our lives to teach us about love and loyalty. They depart to teach us about loss.

A new dog never replaces an old dog; it merely expands the heart. If you have loved many dogs, your heart is very big. ~ Erica Jong

**Friendship:** People who are friends talk to each other and spend time together. They trust one another and also help each other when they are troubled or are hurt. A friendship is a relationship of mutual affection between people. Friendships provide companionship, affection, emotional support, and contribute positively to mental and physical well-being. Friends exist outside of family and usually have an established hierarchy such as best friend, close friend, etc. (Wikipedia)

**Qualities associated with friendship:** Qualities associated with friendship include 1.) live with integrity, 2.) trustworthiness, 3.) dependability, 4.) loyalty, 5.) empathy for others, 6.) good listeners, 7.) confident, 8.) spending time with them makes you feel good, 9.) sense of humor, 10.) non-judgmental, and 11.) low maintenance.

In consideration of the definition and list of qualities, I know they all match up to my relationship with Blackie. He was truly one of the closest friends I've had during my life and it is quite obvious to me, at one time or another, that his personality and behavioral traits are strongly associated with those friendship qualities. Those listed traits are the ones I most desire in my choice of a friend. These qualities are all how Blackie lived his life, whether by his choice or by genetic determination. As to the matter of love, I know I loved the dog and feel strongly that it was reciprocated, but science has only recently validated that it could be so.

The Woman said, "Wild Thing out of the Wild Woods, help my man hunt through the day and guard this Cave at night, and I will give you as many roast bones as you need" ... Wild Dog crawled into the Cave and laid his head on the Woman's lap, and said, "O my Friend and Wife of my Friend, I will help your Man to hunt through the day, and at night I will guard your Cave." ... When the Man waked up he said, "What is Wild Dog doing here?" And the Woman said, "His name is not Wild Dog anymore, but the First Friend, because he will be our friend for always. Take him with you when you go hunting."

~ Rudyard Kipling

All dogs evolved from wolves. Around 16,000 years ago, a dog/human bond began the domestication process which has been ongoing since then. Dogs provided humans with an animal creature which could aid in their protection, enhance hunting experiences, work, and provide dog companionship. In this relationship, the dog also gained protection, a steady source of food, care, and human companionship. Dogs and man bonded and became friends. Although man domesticated many other creatures, none formed a friendship (cats and horses, possibly?? ...). It should be noted that the many dog types which exist today are a result of human selection, not natural selection, as man attempted to design dogs with traits which were beneficial to his specific needs. For example, the hunting dogs used by our waterfowl hunters today have been specially designed and trained for that activity. It should also be noted that for much of the 15,000 years of dog/human bonding, the dog wasn't always treated in a humane way by his human companion. It is only in the last 200+ years that dogs have even been considered capable of experiencing pain and feelings. Recent history has seen dogs become pets to so many people throughout the world. As pets, dogs can still fulfill a human need such as work, but now a more altruistic bond exists. Greater acceptance of dogs as equals and more humane treatment in the relationship has developed over the past 150 years. It is fair to say that many dogs have lifestyles far better today than millions of humans. However, the dog/human bond still exists even in the worst of human circumstances. I'm sure many of our museum members consider their dogs special friends, as do many of the poorest members of our society who have dog companions.





Finally, as to the matter of love between the dog and human species: This is not an issue that most dog experts and scientists enjoy discussing. It is very difficult to put into words and define love. When a Supreme Court justice was asked to define pornography, he stated that he may not be able to define what it is, but he knows it when he sees it. I feel the same way about love. Many old school thinkers still just outright reject the possibility of love in the dog/human relationship. However, many contemporary scientists with more advanced tools and methodology are considering it as an evolutionary outcome. More and more is being discovered and presented about dogs and humans which suggests love could be the basis of this unique dog/human bond.

Before concluding, I will briefly mention three very interesting studies. W. Horsley Gantt, while working at Johns Hopkins University in the mid-1930s, discovered a cardiovascular oddity when humans walked into a room with a dog present. He named it a “social reflex” wherein the dog’s heart rate accelerated and then lowered when petted. This reflex was not observed with any other animals in the same situation. Through further studies, he was able to map the emotional states of dogs and humans. More recent studies looking at oxytocin levels rather than heartbeats that have been conducted by researcher, Takefumi

Kikusui, have found that major surges of the “pleasure/love” hormone occur in dogs and humans with shared eye contact. Of final note, recent studies of separation anxiety experienced by dogs upon the departure of their human companion reinforce that a special bond exists between a dog and human. This bond is based on the dog’s love for his special missing companion. With further studies over time, I’m convinced that more science will reveal a reciprocated dog and human love.

To conclude, my friend Blackie is gone although his spirit is still in my heart. I feel that anyone who has lost a dog that was special to them probably feels the same as I do. As we saw their eyes, our heart rates increased and then stabilized in rest and our oxytocin levels heightened. Our anxiety increased as the separation was final and the pain and grief set in at their passing. We were experiencing the love that comes from a deep friendship. My dear Blackie showed me love through his friendship. I hope he felt my love and knew how painful his loss as a friend would be.

“How lucky I am to have had something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”

- Pooh





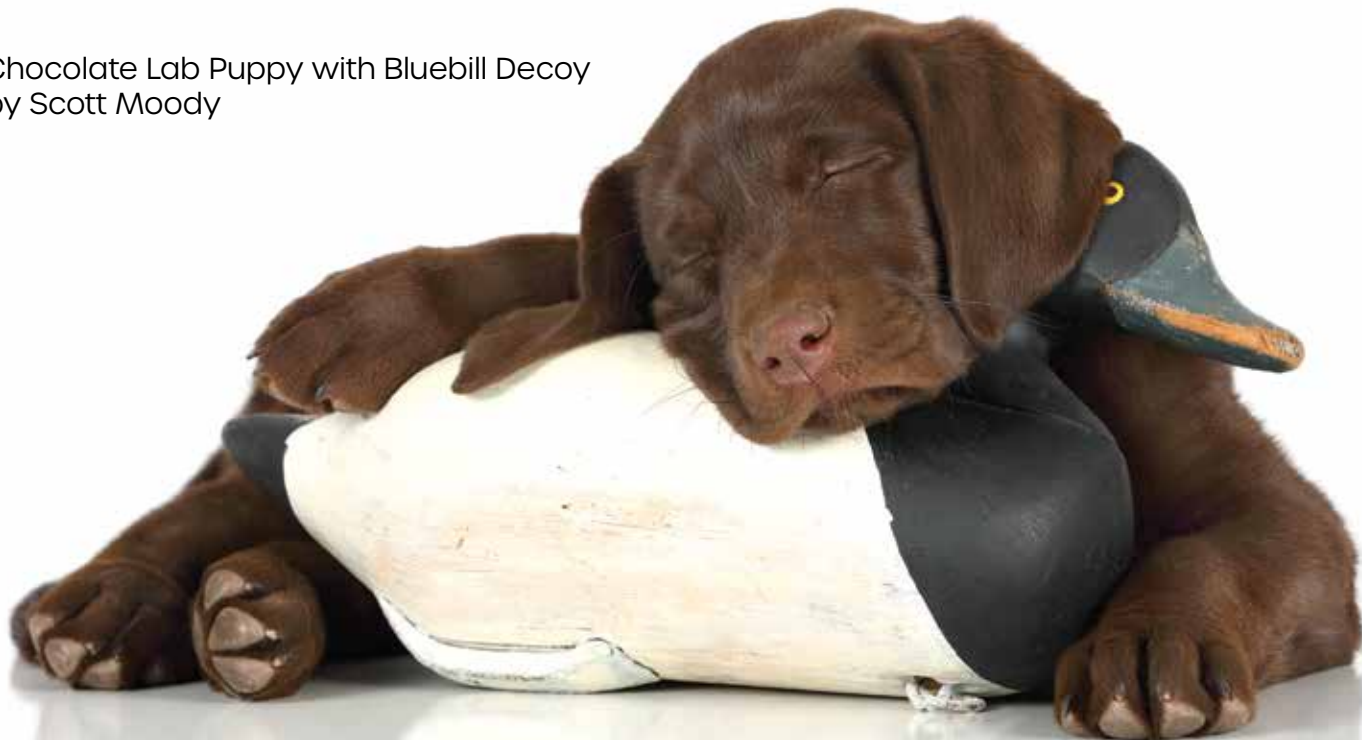
# SHOTS

## From the Wild

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Chocolate Lab Puppy with Bluebill Decoy  
by Scott Moody



Labrador Retriever  
by Chris Williams

Boykin Spaniel  
by Tyler Coleman







Labrador Retriever  
by David Farrow



Labrador Retriever  
by Matt Kneisley



Labrador Retriever  
by Steve Keller



Labrador Retriever  
by Matt Kneisley





Yellow Labrador Retriever  
by Scott Moody

Boykin Spaniel  
by Tyler Coleman

Labrador Retriever  
by Matt Kneisley



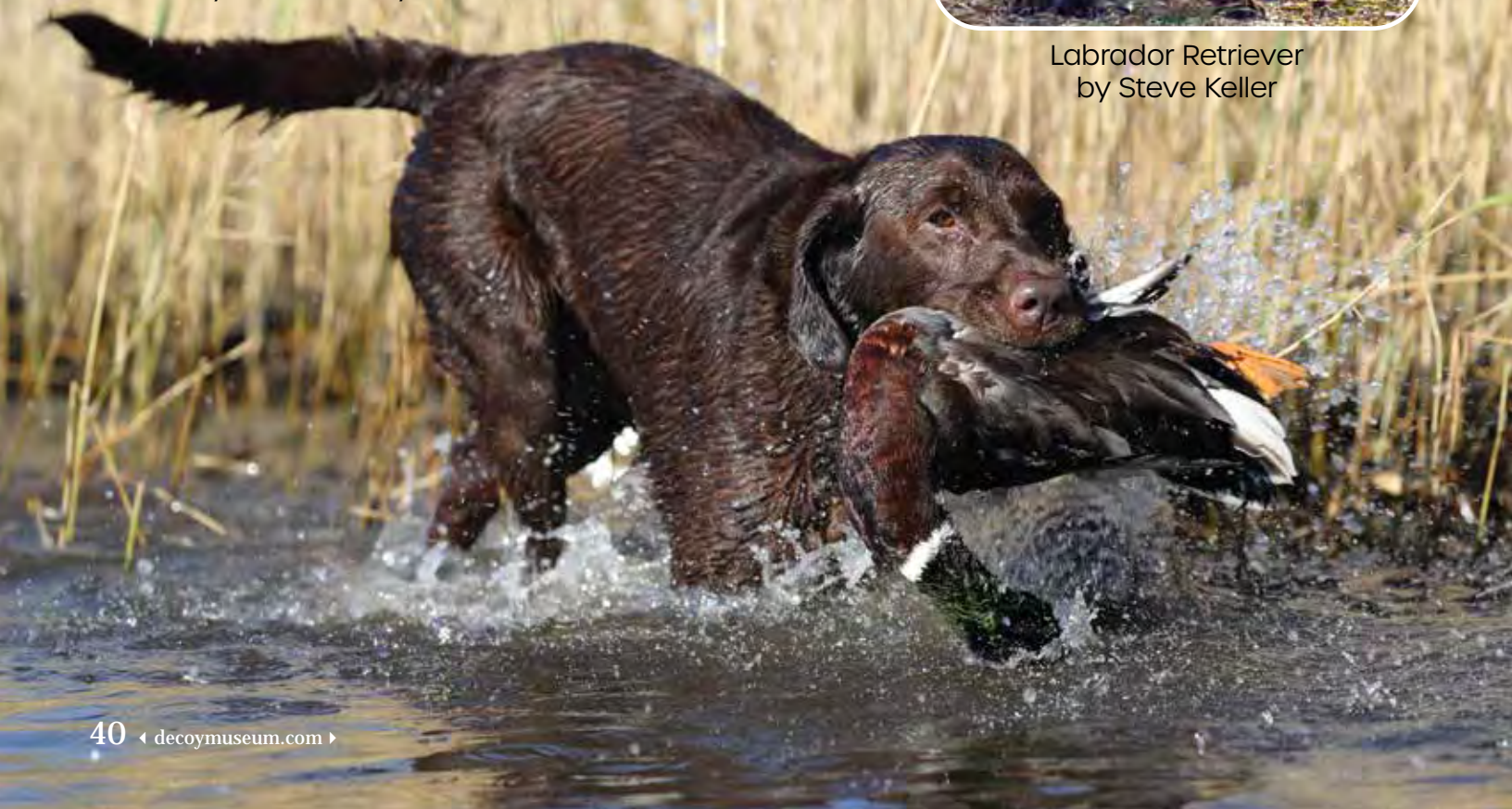


Boykin Spaniel  
by Tyler Coleman



Chocolate Labrador Retriever  
by Scott Moody

Labrador Retriever  
by Steve Keller







# Decoy Club News

## PDCA & UBDCC Host Joint Event at Holly Hill Farm

The Potomac Decoy Collections Association (PDCA) and Upper Bay Decoy Collectors Club (UBDCC) held a joint meeting at Holly Hill Farm (Earleville, MD) on October 1, 2023. Holly Hill Farm was founded in the mid-1950s by the grandparents of PDCA Vice President David Farrow. Seventy-years later, David and his siblings John and Amy continue to run this family owned business as a major wholesaler of container size plants and trees in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Following introductory comments from PDCA President Chad Tragakis and UBDCC President Gary Armour, the guests on hand were treated to an educational presentation by local historian C. John Sullivan, Jr where he presented decoys and artifacts from



his extensive collection. Following the presentation, the group perused through countless decoys brought by club members of silhouettes, old working decoys, and contemporary decoys.

All in all, it was wonderful to spend time in the countryside with fellow waterfowl decoy enthusiasts.

## PDCA Closes Out 2023 with Successful Meeting at the Annapolis Elks Lodge

Approximately forty members of the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association (PDCA) held their final meeting for 2023 at the Annapolis Elks Lodge (Edgewater, MD) on Sunday, November 19, 2023. The club enjoyed fellowship through the sharing of a meal as well as admiring club members' decoys from three categories: canvasbacks, old working decoys, and contemporary decoys.

During the course of the event, Henry and Judy Stansbury presented the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum with a shadow box once owned by Joel Barber of "The Havre de Grace Swan". The Stansburys also presented the Museum with a drawing of the Havre de Grace Swan and a watercolor illustration of a Saskatchewan, Canada mallard head decoy. Board President Mike Tarquini and Board members David Farrow and John Henry graciously accepted the donation on behalf of the Decoy Museum.





# UPCOMING DECOY SHOW INFORMATION

**January 27, 2024**

**Susquehanna Vintage**

**Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Show**

Level Volunteer Fire Company • Havre de Grace, MD

Info: Chuck Usilton • (410) 378-3528

**February 3, 2024**

**The Eastern Shore of Virginia Decoy Show**

Pearl Event Center • Cape Charles, VA

Info: Tommy O'Connor • (757) 620-8520

**February 24, 2024**

**3rd Annual Upper Bay Decoy Collectors Club  
Sportsman & Decoy Show honoring Jim Pierce**

Minker Banquet Hall • Perryville, MD

Info: J.K. Pierce • (443) 966-0312

**March 2, 2024**

**52nd Annual Antique Decoy  
& Sporting Collectibles Show**

IBEW Union Hall • Hauppauge, NY

Info: Tim Sieger • (631) 537-0153

**April 6, 2024**

**Decoy, Art & Hunting Collectibles Show & Sale**

Stockton University Campus Center • Galloway, NJ

Info: Jaim Lloyd (609) 703-6143

**April 11 -13, 2024**

**East Coast Decoy Collectors Show**

St. Michaels Inn • St. Michaels, MD

Info: Kevin Peel • (410) 937-2218

**May 4 & 5, 2024**

**42nd Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival**

STAR Centre • Havre de Grace, MD

Info: Mike Tarquini (410) 459-8487



## **52nd Annual Antique Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024**

**9 AM - 4 PM**

**IBEW UNION HALL**

**#370 Vanderbilt/Motor Parkway  
Hauppauge, New York**

**FREE DECOY APPRAISALS**

**ADMISSION \$7**

### DIRECTIONS

L.I.E. to Exit 55, to Motor Pkwy West,  
to 370 IBEW Union Hall

### RECOMMENDED HOTEL

Radisson

110 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway  
Hauppauge, NY 11788  
631-231-1100

### ANNUAL THEME

100 Years of the Pattersquash Gunning Club

### 2ND ANNUAL GRASS DUCKBOAT COMPETITION

Call Anthony Babich for Registration 631-338-6409

### ATTENDANCE OR VENDOR INFORMATION

Tim Sieger • 631-537-0153

Dick Richardson • 631-475-4199

Jim Jankowski • 631-721-6914

Check our website at

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





# Upper Bay Decoy collectors club



For Information & Exhibit Space Contact  
**J. K. Pierce**  
Email: donediggin7@comcast.net

**443-966-0312**

*Proudly Presents*  
**3rd Annual**

## **Jim Pierce Sportsman & Decoy Show**

**Saturday, February 24, 2024 • 8 am - 3 pm**

Minker Banquet Hall • 920 Principio Furnace Road • Perryville MD 21903

### **Antique & Contemporary Decoys**

Hunting & Fishing Items • Oyster Cans & Shell Boxes  
Sporting Art & Books • Rods, Reels & Powder Tins  
Guns, Ammunition & Knives

**BUY • SELL • TRADE**

**Special display of Clarence Webb decoys  
courtesy of his family.**

All proceeds benefit the Upper Bay Decoy Collectors Club

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL

## **SUSQUEHANNA**



### **Vintage Hunting & Fishing COLLECTIBLES SHOW**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024**

**9 AM - 3 PM • EARLY BIRDS 8 AM**

**Level Volunteer Fire Hall**

3633 Level Village Road • Havre de Grace, Maryland

**ADMISSION \$6 • EARLY BIRD ADMISSION \$15**

### **FEATURING**

Decoys • Ephemera • Fishing Lures  
Guns • Ammunition  
Rods & Reels • Shot Shell Boxes  
Sporting Art • Oyster Cans  
Gunpowder Tins  
Hunting & Fishing Licenses

**Food & Drinks Available**  
**Approximately 100 Tables**

Proceeds to Benefit  
**Level Fire Co. &  
Havre de Grace Decoy Museum**

For more information contact  
**Pat Vincenti: 410-734-6238**  
**Chuck Usilton: 410-378-3528**



**NEW JERSEY DECOY  
COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION**

30th Annual

Decoy, Art & Hunting  
Collectibles Show and Sale

**"BEST OLD DECOY SHOW IN NEW JERSEY"**

**NEW**



**LOCATION**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024**

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.- Rain or Shine

**LOCATION:** Stockton University - Campus Center  
101 Vera King Farris Drive  
Galloway, NJ 08205

**ADMISSION:** Adult - \$6.00  
(with this flyer or our advertisement  
\$5.00)  
Children 12 & under FREE

- ▶ **FEATURED CARVER:**  
William "Will" Hammarstrom
- ▶ **ARTIFACT DISPLAY BY:** Bob Seabrook
- ▶ **FOOD & DRINK** available at the "Food Court"  
and "Coffee House" in the Campus Center
- ▶ **FREE DECOY APPRAISALS**
- ▶ **GUEST SPEAKERS:** To be announced

**SHOW CONTACTS**

Jaim Lloyd • Club President  
609-703-6143

Clarence Fennimore • Co-Chairman  
609-405-4376

John Shores • Co-Chairman  
732-691-3278

Al Barker • Art Chairman  
609-298-7459



**The Oyster Farm  
at  
Kings Creek**

Presents:

**The 2nd Annual  
Eastern Shore  
of Virginia  
DECOY SHOW**

**Saturday, February 3, 2024**

9 AM - 4 PM

Located in the Pearl Event Center  
700 Marina Village Circle  
Cape Charles, VA 23310

125 Tables Available

Sponsorships \$250, \$500 & \$1,000

**For more info Call**

**Tommy O'Connor @ 757-620-8520**



# EAST COAST DECOY COLLECTORS

**BUY • SELL • SWAP**

**THURSDAY - SATURDAY**

**APRIL 11-13, 2024**

**IN ROOMS - RAIN OR SHINE**

**ST. MICHAELS INN**

**ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND**

**410-745-3333**

**(MENTION EVENT)**



**SATURDAY LATE AFTERNOON/EVENING  
MEETING + COOKOUT**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

**KEVIN PEEL • 410-937-2218**

**KEVINPEEL1@GMAIL.COM**

**PUBLIC WELCOME • FREE DECOY APPRAISALS**



## **Susquehanna Flats Chapter of Delta Waterfowl**



***Join us to make a difference!***

Contact Rob Glassman at **410.404.6652** or via e-mail at **woodchuck4070@gmail.com**



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**Havre de Grace  
Decoy Museum**  
215 Giles Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
[www.decoymuseum.com](http://www.decoymuseum.com)



*Many Thanks*

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