



# WATCHGANDER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4 APRIL 2001 JOHN L. CLAYTON JR. EDITOR

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## NJDCA HOT NEWS AND REMINDERS

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DON'T MISS THE UPCOMING MEETING ON APRIL 24TH AT THE MANAHAWKIN ELKS AT 7:00 P.M. WE HAD A LIGHT TURNOUT FOR THE MARCH MEETING, NO DOUBT DUE TO IT BEING RIGHT AFTER OUR SHOW. CLARENCE BOORMAN WAS ILL AND COULD NOT ATTEND, SO WE WILL RESCHEDULE BROADBILLS AGAIN THIS MONTH. ENCLOSED YOU WILL FIND A NEW MEMBERSHIP LIST. WORD HAS COME THAT ONE OF OUR MEMBERS, RICHARD KERN, HAS PASSED AWAY. ANOTHER MEMBER AWOL FOR A FEW MONTHS IS ALIVE AND WELL ON A CRUISE ON THE LOVE BOAT, OUT TO IDAHO.



THIS MONTHS DECOY CONTEST WILL BE **BROADBILLS**, MAY WILL BE GEESE, JUNE WILL BE RED HEADS.

### UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE

APRIL 26-27 ANNUAL SPRING DECOY AUCTION BY GUYETTE & SCHMIDT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATIONAL ANTIQUE DECOY SHOW AT THE PHEASANT RUN RESORT ST. CHARLES, IL

MAY 4-6 2TH ANNUAL DECOY, WILDLIFE ART & SPORTSMAN FESTIVAL IN HAVRE DE GRACE, MD.

JUNE 9TH 2nd ANNUAL NJDCA PICNIC AT THE BUTLERS EVERYONE BRING A COVERED DISH AND A FEW DECOYS TO TALK ABOUT. FOR INFORMATION CALL PETE 609-965-3143

### 2001 MEETING DATES

APRIL 24, MAY 22, JUNE 26, JULY AND AUGUST (NONE) SEPTEMBER 25 OCTOBER 23, NOVEMBER 27 DECEMBER (NONE) 7 PM AT THE MANAHAWKIN ELKS



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## decoy contest winners

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### Old Birds Pre 1940:

First: Herb Wetenson

Second : Herb  
Wetenson

Third : Malcolm  
Bahrenberg

### Gunning Birds Post 1940:

First: Dick Gove

Second: Herb Wetanson

Third: Malcolm  
Bahrenberg

### Display:

First: C. Fennimore

Second : George  
Marshall

Third: Russ Allen

the newsletter is looking for anyone interested in contributing to it. we would like to have any information you have found about decoys or carvers. we will even help you write it.

JOHN CLAYTON EDITOR  
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## show REPORT

Special Thanks to all that helped make our decoy show a Hugh success. We raised \$1,000.00 to be donated to the Tuckerton Seaport, and are planning to make this presentation at our May meeting. The Seaport staff did a fine job in helping Mike Larkin with his advertising efforts, and helped increase our overall paid attendance to over 600.

Those also, deserving recognition for there efforts are Debbie Allen, Margaret Butler, Joan Deevy, Lynn Gove and Mike Larkin who helped with admission. Clarence Boorman who ran the shorebird contest. Grove Conrad and Dick Gove for there efforts in handling the Old Decoy Contest. Mark Johnson for running the Hunting Boat Contest, and the New Jersey Waterfowlers for donating the Boat Contest Awards.

Russ Allen, our Carver of the year, donated a beautiful Merganser decoy that was raffled off and won by Mark Ford. Barbara Fennimore and Dara Clayton did a great job in selling \$835.00 worth of tickets.

Our show is growing each year and the Show Committee will be meeting shortly to try and address several issues, one of which is the need for additional space. Our show is for our members and many can not get a table, and are forced to tailgate outside. We had a big increase in tailgaters this year and this caused a parking shortage.

Clarence Fennimore

## For sale

Model 870  
Remington Magnum  
Shotgun with 28" full  
barrel, 24" Hastings barrel  
with all screw in chokes,  
Slug barrel in good shape.  
Dick Gove 609-652-1906

WANTED  
GUN POWDER TINS  
Shotshell boxes  
Old photos  
CALL  
JOHN CLAYTON  
732-255-6291

**Wanted**  
**Any information on**  
**Grover Clevel and**  
**Regarding**  
**hunting and fishing**  
**John Clayton**  
**732-255-6291**

## NEW JERSEY DECOY COLLECTORS SHOW CONTEST WINNERS

### Hunting Boat Display:

NJ Waterfowlers Awards went To:

Traditional Class: Bill McBeth

Contemporary Class: Frank Montalto

### Shorebird Contest:

First Place: Tom Molis

Second Place: Tony Hillman

Third Place: Tony Hillman

Honorable Mention: Steve Morey

## Old Bird Contest Results

Over 50 entries in this years show and only one clunker in the lot – some clown entered a Les Van Brunt black duck in original cobwebs and frayed anchor line. Ducks were judged by Seabrook, Strasburg and White with Herb Miller as the celebrity judge for the miniature sneakboxes. And the winners were:

New Jersey Coastal Black Ducks: **1<sup>st</sup>** Harry M. Shourds - Dick Gove . **2<sup>nd</sup>** Bill Cranmer – Dick Gove. **3<sup>rd</sup>** Harry M. Shourds - Malcolm Bahrenburg . **Honorable Mention** , Wm Quinn – Tim Sieger - **2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention** , Shang Wheeler – Alan Haid.

The Honorable Mention categories even though not New Jersey were such outstanding birds that the committee made exceptions and awarded ribbons regardless.

Puddle Ducks – All Regions – All Ages: **1<sup>st</sup>**, Blair Style Mallard – Dick Gove. **2<sup>nd</sup>**, Ward Bros. Widgeon – Malcolm Bahrenburg. **3<sup>rd</sup>** John McLaughlin Pintail. **Honorable Mention** – Harry Fennimore Mallard Drake – Clarence Fennimore

Diving Ducks – All Regions – All Ages: **1<sup>st</sup>** , Shang Wheeler Hen Canvasback – Alan Haid. **2<sup>nd</sup>**, Dan English Broadbill Drake – John Clayton. **3<sup>rd</sup>**, Ferdinand Bach – Broadbill Drake – Tim Seiger. **Honorable Mention** Wards Bros. Broadbill Drake – Griff Evans.

Miniature Sneakboxes: **1<sup>st</sup>** – Wes Potter – Tabernacle/Brant Beach - Wes Potter, **2<sup>nd</sup>**, Gene Hendrickson – Lower Bank – Grove Conrad, **3<sup>rd</sup>** Hurley Conklin – Manahawkin – Bill Doggert. **Honorable Mention** – Carl Galagher – Beach Haven/Atlantic City – Wes Potter

The following are select paragraphs from a May 21, 1960 interview of Jay C. Parker by “Sam”. Sam’s last name is not known – we would appreciate anyone that may know who “Sam” might have been, or who Christensen was or the date of the Field and Stream cover, contacting **The Watchgander**.

“Parker invited us to come out to his decoy shed in the back yard. It was a small two-room affair; the larger front portion loaded down with decoys, white cedar slabs and miscellaneous gear. In the rear, was the carving room with its work bench, band saw and belt sander. Below the bench was a huge carton full of unpainted decoy heads. Parker waved us to a chair.

“Eighty years ago I was born in the house I now live in. My father built it when he returned from fighting in the Union Army. The Parkers have lived in Parkertown (sic) ever since the early 1700’s when they came over from England and settled here.”

“When I was 21, I built a houseboat and lived on it in the waters of Tuckerton Bay as it is known locally. I would clam and fish and hunt for a living. I shot shore birds for the New York and Boston markets. When we didn’t have enough to make up a barrel, we would take them to a dealer up the line and he would buy what we had. We were paid 25 cents for a pair of greater yellowlegs snipe, 15 cents for two lesser yellowlegs and two cents for sandpipers. But that was 50 years ago and shore bird shooting has been banned many years. When I had time on my hands I whittied. At first, I used my father’s decoys for models but later I modeled according to my own ideas.”

“I have sold decoys and decoy heads in every state in the Union. Just a short while ago I sold stool ducks for shooting in California. I work 8 to 10 hours a day and never have a dull moment on my hands. It keeps me young. It brings me in touch with all kinds of interesting people. One day I was out front of the house. My hound had gotten loose and was chasing rabbits and I was out to get him before the game warden got after me. A car pulled up and a man called out: “Are you Jay C. Parker?” I thought he might be a warden so I didn’t answer him but kept on walking up to his car. Then he said, “Are you the man who carves decoys?” So I said I was, and he showed me a cover for Field and Stream magazine with a painting of a decoy and asked me if I recognized it. “Recognize it, I says! “I made it!” It seems that I had sold some decoys to an antique dealer Reg Tickner of Bay Head. This man in the car, Harold Christenson, was an artist. He came into Tickner’s shop looking for a decoy to model for this cover and he bought one of mine. Then he got interested in looking me up and he did and we have been good friends ever since.”

Submitted by Grove Conrad

## EDWARD COSTELLO

1911-1973

## DELAWARE RIVER DUCK HUNTER AND CARVER

ED COSTELLO, OF BURLINGTON, NJ, WAS A DUCK HUNTER AND DECOY CARVER WHO MADE A PERSONAL RIG OF BLACK DUCKS AND A FEW MALLARDS.

COSTELLO MADE DECOYS FROM THE 1930'S TO APPROXIMATELY 1945; HIS LIFETIME OUTPUT OF DECOYS IS ESTIMATED TO BE BETWEEN 20 AND 30 DECOYS. HE WAS A CLOSE FRIEND AND AN EMPLOYEE OF RIDGE MARTER. MARTER HELPED COSTELLO WITH HIS DECOYS AND COSTELLO'S DECOYS STRONGLY RESEMBLE MARTER DECOYS.

COSTELLO'S DECOYS WERE CARVED IN PINE AND WERE HOLLOWED OUT USING HAND TOOLS. THE DECOYS HAVE RAISED CARVED PRIMARIES, CARVED TAILS AND BILLS. THE MAJORITY OF DECOYS ARE LOW (RESTING) HEADS, NO SLEEPERS OR TURNED HEADS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN CARVED. ALL HAVE GLASS EYES. HE USED A LARGE RECTANGULAR LEAD WEIGHT, WHICH HE POSITIONED ON THE REAR OF THE DECOYS. THE PADS WERE SECURED WITH SMALL BRASS SCREWS LIKE MARTER'S DECOYS.

SOME DECOYS HAD THIN LEATHER ANCHOR LOOPS WITH BRASS SWIVELS (SIMILAR TO MARTER'S) BUT THE MAJORITY HAD BRASS SCREW EYES AND BRASS SWIVELS.

THE BLACK DUCKS WERE PAINTED A DULL BLACK WITH LIGHT BROWN CHECKING AND GREEN BILLS. THE DECOYS WERE PAINTED IN OLD HOUSE PAINT. HIS DECOYS RESEMBLE MARTER'S DECOYS SO CLOSELY THAT IT IS SOMETIMES HARD TO TELL THEM APART.

HE GUNNED SHEDAKER FLATS FOR RAIL BIRDS AND DUCKS USING A 14 DOUBLE-ENDER DUCK BOAT THAT HE AND MARTER BUILT. HE WAS A BUSHWACKER AND USED A SMALL PADDLE INSTEAD OF SCULLING.

COSTELLO WAS AN AVID HUNTER OF RABBITS AND DEER. HE GUNNED FOR RABBITS ON WARREN SCOTT'S FARM AND OTHER AREAS IN AND AROUND BURLINGTON, NJ. HE WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF MARTER'S DEER CLUB NEAR LAKEHURST, NJ.

BY ALLEN LINKCHORST

6

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