



WATCHGANDER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 5 MAY 2001 JOHN L. CLAYTON JR. EDITOR

NJDCA HOT NEWS AND REMINDERS

DON'T MISS THE UPCOMING MEETING ON MAY 22ND AT THE MANAHAWKIN ELKS AT 7:00 P.M. WE WILL BE PRESENTING THE TUCKERTON SEAPORT A CHECK FOR \$1,00.00, AND GETTING A UPDATE ON THEIR BUILDING PROGRESS.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE

JUNE 2ND 4TH ANNUAL SMITHVILLE DECOY CARVERS AND COLLECTORS SHOW TO BE HELD AT THE SMITHVILLE VILLAGE GREEN, SMITHVILLE, NJ CONTACT WENDIE FITZGERALD AT (609) 646-4550

JUNE 9TH 2ND ANNUAL NJDCA PICNIC AT THE BUTLERS EVERYONE BRING A COVERED DISH AND A FEW DECOYS TO TALK ABOUT. 3:00 PM TIL THE BEER RUNS OUT. FOR INFORMATION CALL PETE 609-965-3143 A MAP IS ON PAGE 6

June 30th Tuckerton seaport's 1st annual carving and decoy show sponsored by the Barnegat bay decoy and bayman's museum and the long beach isl and wood carvers; to be held at the Tuckerton seaport in Tuckerton, nj. Contact butch kraus (609) 492-1134 OR E-MAIL J.T. CAHILL@shorenetworks.com

2001 MEETING DATES

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



decoy contest winners

Old Birds Pre 1940:

First: Bill Cordrey

Second : Malcolm
Bahrenberg

Third : Malcolm
Bahrenberg

Gunning Birds Post
1940:

First: Pete Butler

Second: Malcolm
Bahrenberg

Third: Clarence
Fennimore

Display:

First: C. Fennimore

Second : Pete Butler

Third: Clarence
Fennimore

**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
732-255-6291
JOHN@NJDECOYS.COM**

AUCTION REPORT

I JUST RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE GUYETTE AND SCHMIDT AUCTION IN PHEASANT RUN, AND BY ALL INDICATIONS THE DECOY MARKET IS ALIVE AND WELL. THE AUCTION TOPPED TWO MILLION, WHICH WAS IMPRESSIVE BECAUSE THERE WERE NO BIG TICKET DECOYS. FRANK SCHMIDT REPORTED CATALOG SALES UP, BY OVER 400 MOSTLY TO NEW COLLECTORS.

WITH A FAIR MIX OF DECOYS FROM MOST AREAS, IT CONTAINED A STRONG GROUP OF QUALITY DECOYS FROM ILLINOIS RIVER. I TALKED WITH SEVERAL ILLINOIS RIVER COLLECTORS WHO TOLD ME THERE WERE SOME EXCELLENT PURCHASES MADE.

A GREAT COLLECTION OF CROWELL MANTLE CARVINGS HAD GOOD AUCTION RESULTS, SOME SELLING FOR DOUBLE HIGH ESTIMATE.

THE SELECTION OF NEW JERSEY DECOYS WAS LIMITED AT BEST. A RARE H.M. SHOURDS MALLARD, ONLY BROUGHT \$8,500.00, A SURPRISE TO SOME. A BIRDSALL BROADBILL WENT TO A NJ COLLECTION FOR \$4,500.00. THE SELECTION OF WELKER DECOYS, WERE AS NICE AS THOSE IN THE NOVEMBER SALE AND BROUGHT A LITTLE LESS. A CLEAN HV SHOURDS BLACK DUCK BROUGHT \$1,800.00. A VERY NICE BRADFORD SALMONS BLACK DUCK ONLY BROUGHT \$500.00. EVERY AUCTION HAS BARGAINS AND THIS WAS ONE. SEVERAL OF US FROM NEW JERSEY WERE ASLEEP AT THE SWITH, INCLUDING YOURS TRULY.

THE NEXT AUCTION SCHEDULED IN JULY AT THE CLIFF HOUSE IN MAINE WILL FEATURE A COLLECTION OF FINE CANADIAN DECOYS.

JOHN CLAYTON

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**

20th Annual Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

The first full weekend in May heralds the opening of the three day Decoy Festival, held throughout the little gunning town of Havre de Grace, at the top of the Chesapeake Bay. This year's Honorary Chairman was Charles Nelson Barnard (1876-1958) of Havre de Grace. The Decoy Museum publication, *The Canvasback*, mailed its timely festival issue, preceding the show. The magazine included a well-researched and written article by John Sullivan on Barnard. The museum also took the opportunity to display a wonderful collection of Barnard's decoys, tools, and gunning artifacts. Included in the cases were three sets of (very) high head canvasbacks and a ruddy duck, along with decoys representing the various species that he made. The ruddy is the only known survivor of this species. The museum also had a display that ran four table lengths, of 65-70 decoys, lined up almost bumper to bumper, and three and four deep, of all the known makers from yesterday. With easy side profile viewing, it was a wonderful opportunity to study the subtle differences of many decoys that we do not always get a chance to see and compare - Tom Barnard, and Dick Hipple to name a few. Also on the table was another spectacular pair of Barnard (very) high heads. The display was very impressive.

Vendor participation was noticeably down, with three from our own ranks a part of those, for whatever reason, skipping this year's show. Chris Worch, who sets up with Marshall Pumer in the gym, did not choose to describe the crowd as light or heavy, but described it as "constant." Many other vendors agreed. The New Jersey group with tables included Jon Frank, Bill Cordrey and John Clayton. Other PDCA vendors included John Collier, Joe Engers, Ralph Ebbenhause, Dick Larrimore, Henry Fleckenstein, Tom Shively, Jim Pierce, and Paul Loder. This writer along with Chad Tragakis, Dave Fannon, Henry Stansbury, Maryann Dick, Drew Hawkins, Ken Kmiecjak, Jim Van Ness and George Milto enjoyed the show as tire kickers and buyers.

The auction, held at the end of the day on Saturday, contained mostly new decoys with a few nice old gunners mixed in. A large turn-off for the bidders was the initial requirement that a physical piece of identification, driver's license or such, had to be surrendered to the registrar. There was so much complaining and commotion over this procedure, with a few refusing to register, that the registrar eventually dropped this requirement. For those who have been buying Charlie Bryan decoys, his auction prices were strong @ \$325-\$400 for most pairs. A new pair of Charlie Joiner wood ducks hammered @ \$1,700. A sampling of old decoys sold included a Henry Lockard repaint canvasback @ \$300, a Will Heverin repaint canvasback @ \$225, and an op Doug Jester black duck @ \$325. Most op Mitchell's sold in the \$200-\$300 range. Prices quoted do not include 10% buyer's premium. There were no old decoys described as outstanding.

Saturday evening is always fun with most of us finding our way toward the water and the various sea food restaurants. Joe Engers, the club's gourmet, is always a wealth of information on the various restaurants, usually with a recommendation on one or two. Again this year, the town was alive with music, with numerous bands set up on the various street corners, playing to large crowds. It is a nice touch that has been added in recent years. *JIM TRIMBLE FOR THE POTOMAC FLYER*

TUCKERTON BEACON

OCTOBER 24TH, 1918

LOST OR STOLEN ON SEPTEMBER 29TH FLAT BOTTOM ROW BOAT FROM HOLGATE ON LONG BEACH ISLAND. BOAT 14 FOOT LONG, TWO SEATS. SQUARE BOTH ENDS BUT NARROW FORWARD. WHITE OUTSIDE, COPPER PAINT ON BOTTOM. PAIR OF 8 FOOT OARS, ANCHOR, CABLE AND SMALL SHOVEL. ANY INFORMATION AS TO WHERE THE BOAT CAN BE FOUND OR THE RETURN OF BOAT WILL RECEIVE SUITABLE COMPENSATION.

ELLIS PARKER, BEACH HAVEN, NJ.

JANUARY 2ND, 1919

MRS. KUKBRIDE PARKER AND MRS. JAY C. PARKER ARE ON THE SICK LIST.

JONNIE CRANMER RECENTLY CAUGHT NINE TERRAPINS WEIGHING 81 LBS.

VERE PARKER OF CAMDEN, ENJOYED A GUNNING TRIP LAST WEEK WITH HIS FATHER. F. S. PARKER

JANUARY 23, 1919

SILVERTON PEOPLE TELL OF SEVERAL INSTANCES THEY HAVE SEEN OF THE AIR PLANES DRIVING DUCKS OFF THE FLATS AND IN THE COVES, BY SWOOPING DOWN ON THEM AND OPENING UP ON THE FLOCK WITH MACHINE GUNS. THIS WAS DONE BEFORE AND AFTER THE DUCK SEASON OPENED. GAME WARDEN PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

BY GEORGE COOKE

RIVER TALES

BITS AND TALES OF DELAWARE RIVER DUCK HUNTERS AND BY GONE DAYS

IN THE OLD DAYS, HOODED MERGANSERS WERE CALLED COCK ROBINS. USUALLY FOUND IN THE CREEKS AND FLATS AREAS, THEY WERE TAKEN FOR FOOD.

MOST OF THE OLD TIME DUCK HUNTERS WERE A FRUGAL BUNCH. WHILE THEY MAY USE A HI BRASS SHELL TO SHOOT A DUCK. WOUNDED OR CRIPPLES, WERE DISPATCHED BY HAND OR IF NECESSARY THEY WOULD USE THEIR OLDEST LOW BRASS SHELL.

TOM SCOTT WAS THE MAYOR OF BRISTOL, PA. AND A BANK PRESIDENT. HE WAS A AVID SPORTSMAN AND SPECIALLY LIKED DUCK HUNTING. DAN ENGLISH PROVIDED HIM WITH DECOYS AND GUIDED HIM TO CHOICE DUCKING SPOTS. HE OCCASIONALLY HIRED DAN ENGLISH AS A BANK GUARD, WHO SAT IN A SUSPENDED CAGE ABOVE THE BANK WITH A SAWED- OFF SHOTGUN. BUT ENGLISH ONLY WORKED LONG ENOUGH TO GET A LITTLE POCKET MONEY AND MOVED ON.

MANY OF THE OLD TIME DECOY CARVERS WOULDN'T SELL DECOYS. CLAUDE TRADER AND BILL QUINN AND OTHERS OFTEN REFUSED OFFERS TO SELL DECOYS. DAN ENGLISH WOULDN'T SELL DECOYS TO YOUNG GUYS FROM FLORENCE, NJ, BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY SET UP IN ONE OF HIS SPOTS.

DELAWARE RIVER DUCK HUNTERS NEARLY ALL USED BOATS FOR HUNTING AND WOULD OFTEN TEAR DOWN ANY DUCK BLINDS BUILT ON THE RIVER.

BY ALLEN LINKCHORST