Rain or Shine!

44th Annual

Old Time Barnegat Bay

DECOY & GUNNING SHOW

in Historic Tuckerton



VENDORS:

Over 200 Waterfowling Exhibitors & Vendors
Food, Hunting Supplies, Collectible Decoys, Handmade Crafts, Dog Supplies, Fishing Supplies, and More!

FREE ADMISSION, PARKING, & SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE!

ACTIVITIES:

Family Activities, Presentations, Kids Scavenger Hunt, Music, Contests, Art Displays, Demonstrations, and More!

Saturday, September 26 at 7 am-5 pm
Sunday, September 27 at 7 am-4 pm

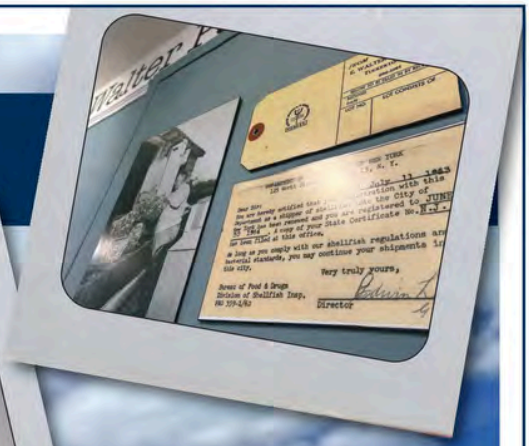
Stanley H. "Tip" Seaman County Park: 120 Lakeside Dr, Tuckerton, NJ 08087
Tuckerton Seaport: 120 W Main St, Tuckerton, NJ 08087

oceancountyparks.org (609) 971-3085

WHAT'S NEW?







New Decoy Exhibit in the Hunting Shanty: Hurley Conklin, Manahawkin

New Decoy Exhibit in the Hunting Shanty: Bird of the Year: Pintail

Coming Soon: Traveling Exhibit – This is the Place!
This will be going to libraries and community spaces.

Expanded Tuckerton: The People Exhibit With 1776 Update: What stories can the historic homes at Tuckerton Seaport tell us about life 250 years ago?

New Oral History Project: Students in Tuckerton Elementary will learn to be local historians and will be conducting interviews of tradition bearers that will be included in the This is the Place exhibits.



TUCKERTON SEAPORT • 120 West Main Street, Tuckerton • TuckertonSeaport.org



Brought to you by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners
and the Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation

WELCOME

to the

44th Annual
Old Time Barnegat Bay

Decoy & Gunning Show!

In Cooperation with: Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum
New Jersey Waterfowlers
Pinelands Regional School District
New Jersey Decoy Collectors Association
Ducks Unlimited

Make sure you visit both Stanley H. "Tip" Seaman County Park and the Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum. Find a parking place at the High School on Nugentown Road or Freedom Fields County Park on Route 539. Once you park, the free shuttle buses will drop you off at the show sites from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM both days. Our show hosts will warmly greet you and explain the events of the day.

We have something for everyone, including decoys, dogs, boats, wildlife art, wildlife carvings, gunning supplies, antique fishing and hunting paraphernalia, duck and goose calls, clothing, carving supplies and decoy/boat lumber. Ocean County Parks & Recreation is happy to sponsor and welcome back the Delmarva Dock Dogs.

The music tent provides a vibrant background to the culture of the Barnegat Bay and Pinelands.

More than 50 contests and seminars will be held at the show sites during two action-packed days! Don't miss the New Jersey Duck Calling Championship. The winner will represent New Jersey at the world championship in Stuttgart, Arkansas, in November.

Join us for lunch as our numerous food vendors tempt your appetite with the mouth-watering aromas of delicious treats.

The show is a great family event, with activities for all age groups. So bring the family and come on down to Tuckerton for the 44th Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show. The staff, volunteers, and participating organizations hope you enjoy the show! Be sure to visit us again next year on September 25 & 26, 2027!



Guide to the Show

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2026 Activity Schedule

* Times and events subject to change without notice*

Saturday, September 26

Demonstrations & Activities

Carving & Craft Demonstrations	9 AM - 4 PM	Family Fun Tent
Tuckerton Creek Boat Rides	9 AM, 10 AM, 11AM, 1 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM	Tuckerton Seaport
Retrieving Demonstration by Navesink River Hunting Retriever Club	12 PM	Skeet/Retriever Area

Music

Up The Creek	11:30 AM - 1:30 PM	Music Tent next to the food vendors
Basement Musicians Guild	2 PM - 4 PM	

Sunday, September 27

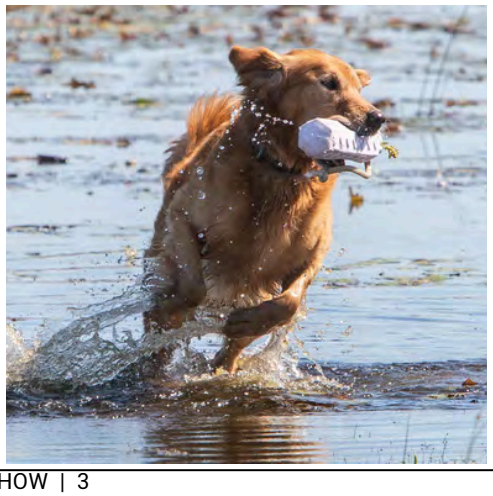
Demonstrations & Activities

Carving & Craft Demonstrations	9 AM - 3 PM	Family Fun Tent
Tuckerton Creek Boat Rides	9 AM, 10 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM	Tuckerton Seaport
Retrieving Demonstration by Navesink River Hunting Retriever Club	12 PM	Skeet/Retriever Area

Music

The Last Whipooryll	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Music Tent next to the food vendors
Basement Musicians Guild	1 PM - 3 PM	







CONTEST SCHEDULE

NOTE: All contest entries must be checked in at event site by 10:00 am the day of the contest.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026	**Skeet/Dog Area**
Preliminary Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox	7:00 AM-10:30 AM
Women's Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox	10:30 AM
Youth Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox	11:00 AM
Retriever Contest- Puppy	12:30 PM
Retriever Contest- Novice	1:30 PM
Preliminary Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox	3:00 PM-5:00 PM
Decoy Tent	
Traditional Shorebird Rig Contest	10:30 AM
Delaware River Gunning Decoy Contest	11:00 AM
Contemporary Gunning Decoy Contest	12:00 PM
Youth Decoy & Youth Shorebird Contest	12:30 PM
Shorebird Decoy Contests	1:00 PM
Miniature Decoy Contest	1:30 PM
Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Contest - Traditional	2:00 PM
Park Community Center	
Model Boat Contest	10:00 AM
Art & Photo Contests	11:00 AM
Decorative Contests	12:00 PM
Park	
Boat Building Contests (Judging)	10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Stage	
Duck & Goose Calling Contest-Adult	10:00 AM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026	**Skeet/Dog Area**
Preliminary Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox	7:00 AM-11:00 AM
World Championship Skeetshoot Finals	11:30 AM
Retriever Contest-Advanced	1:00 PM
Decoy Tent	
Working Fish Decoy Contest	8:30 AM
Delaware River Gunning Decoy Rig Contest	9:00 AM
Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Rig Contest	9:30 AM
Cork Gunning Decoy Contest	10:00 AM
Antiqued Shorebird & Decoy Contest	10:30 AM
Head Whittling Contest	10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Contest - Decorative Slick	11:00 AM
Advanced Carver Contest	12:00 PM
Park Athletic Field	
Archery Contest-Youth	10:30 AM
Archery Contest- Adult	11:30 AM
Stage	
Duck & Goose Calling Contests-Youth	10:00 AM
Awards Ceremony & Conklin Presentation	3:30 PM-4:00 PM

THINGS TO DO

On Saturday and Sunday By Location:

Family Fun Tent

- Play decoy & boat games
- Paint a flattie decoy
- Design and color your own decoy pattern
- Make & Take decoy crafts
- Carve a soap decoy
- Interact with decoy carving, boat building, and basket making demonstrators
- Learn how you can become a folk artist, too!

Scavenger Hunt

- Pick up hunt sheet from Welcome Tent & Family Fun Tent
- When completed, bring finished sheet to the Family Fun Tent

Heritage Tent

- Clamming by hand game
- Watch movies on local culture
- Engage with Presenters on local heritage

Community Center

- Enter and watch Art & Photo Contests
- Visit Exhibit with cultural videos & public art display
- Make and Take Crafts

War at the Shore Trailer

- Play Cornhole
- Grind grain with a gristmill
- Play life-sized Chess & Checkers

Baseball Field

- Take aim with Archery

Music Tent

- Sing and Dance along to musical performances

Tuckerton Seaport

- Enjoy guided boat tours on Tuckerton Creek *see page 3 for schedule
- View new Folk Art Exhibits
- Make and Take Arts and Crafts







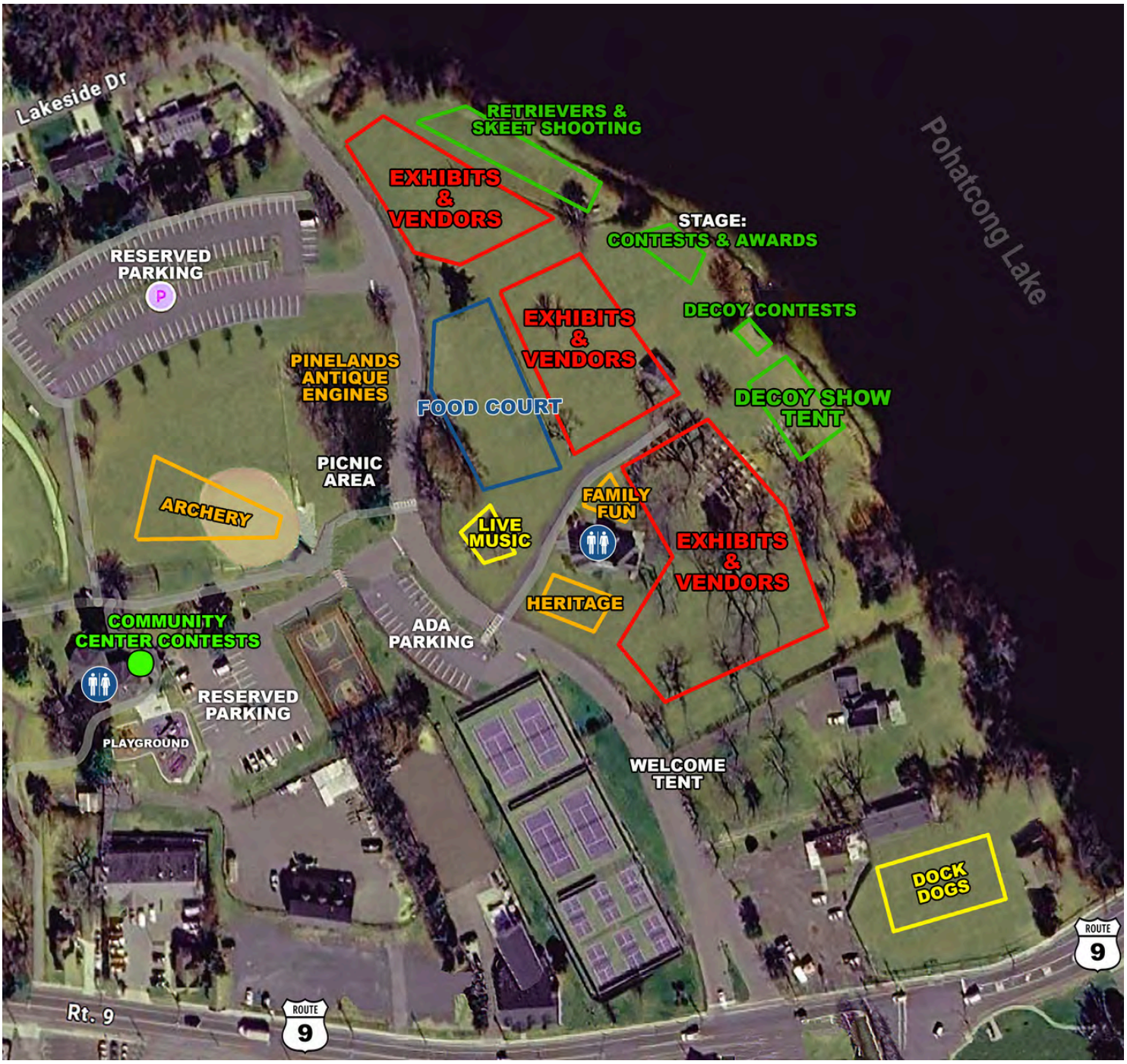
44th Annual

Old Time Barnegat Bay

DECOY & GUNNING SHOW

Site Map

Stanley H. "Tip" Seaman County Park



Jumping in Jersey



Sat. Sept 26th

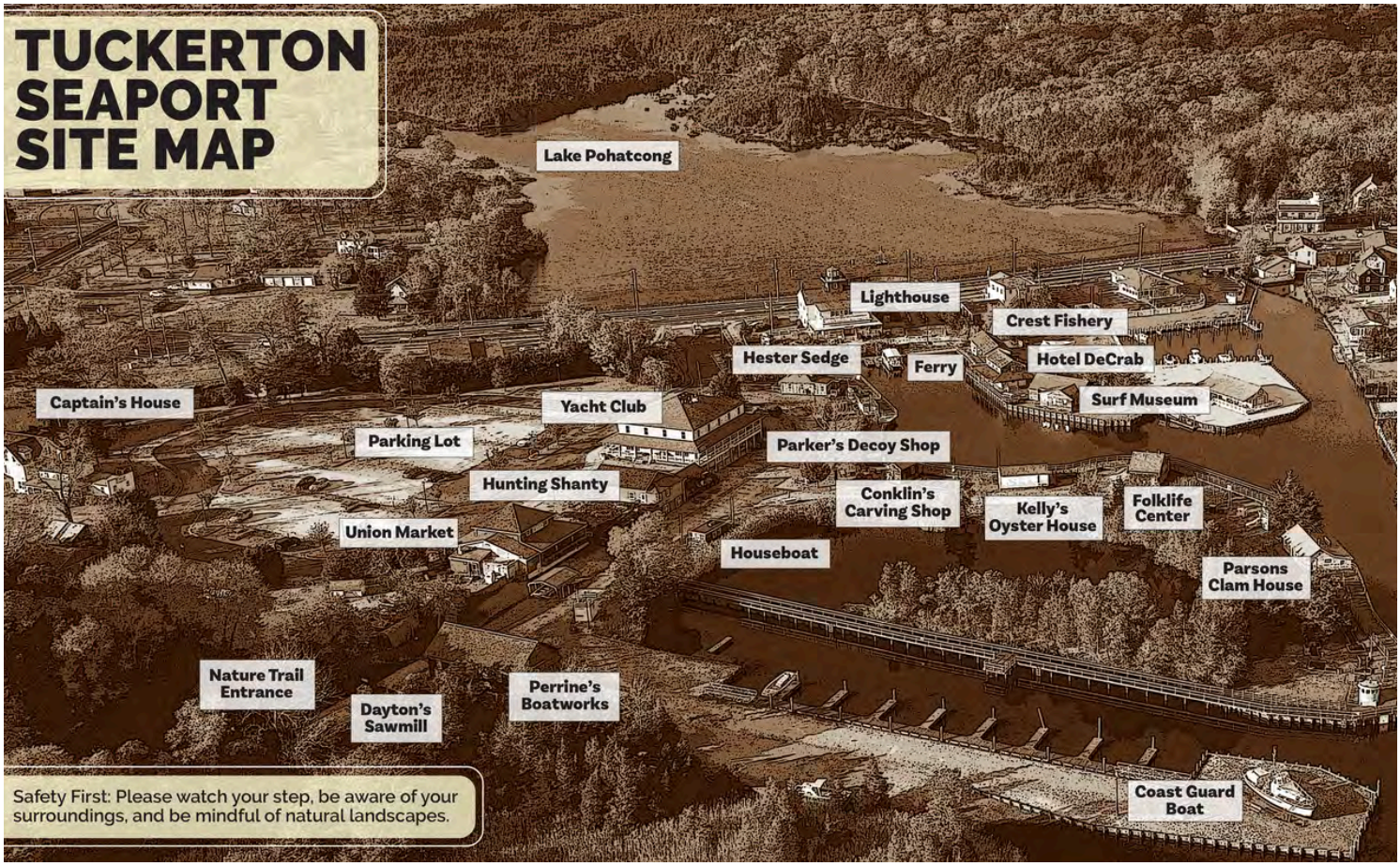
Onsite Registration &
Practice – 8:00 am
Big Air Wave #1 – 9:00 am
Big Air Wave #2 – 10:00 am
Big Air Wave #3 – 12:00 pm
Big Air Wave #4 – 2:00 pm
Extreme Vertical
Competition – 4:00 pm

Sun. Sept 27th

Onsite Registration &
Practice – 8:00 am
Big Air Wave #5 – 9:00 am
Big Air Wave #6 – 10:00 am
Big Air Wave #7 – 12:00 pm
Speed Retrieve – 2:00 pm
Big Air Finals – 4:30 pm



Delmarva DockDogs
Run Fast, Jump Big, Have Fun!



IN MEMORIAM

Photo credit Mark Sullivan, Star News Group





Three Legends of the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show:

Arthur J. Birdsall
1949-2025





W. Fred Reitmeyer Jr.
1941-2026





John R. Holloway
1935-2026

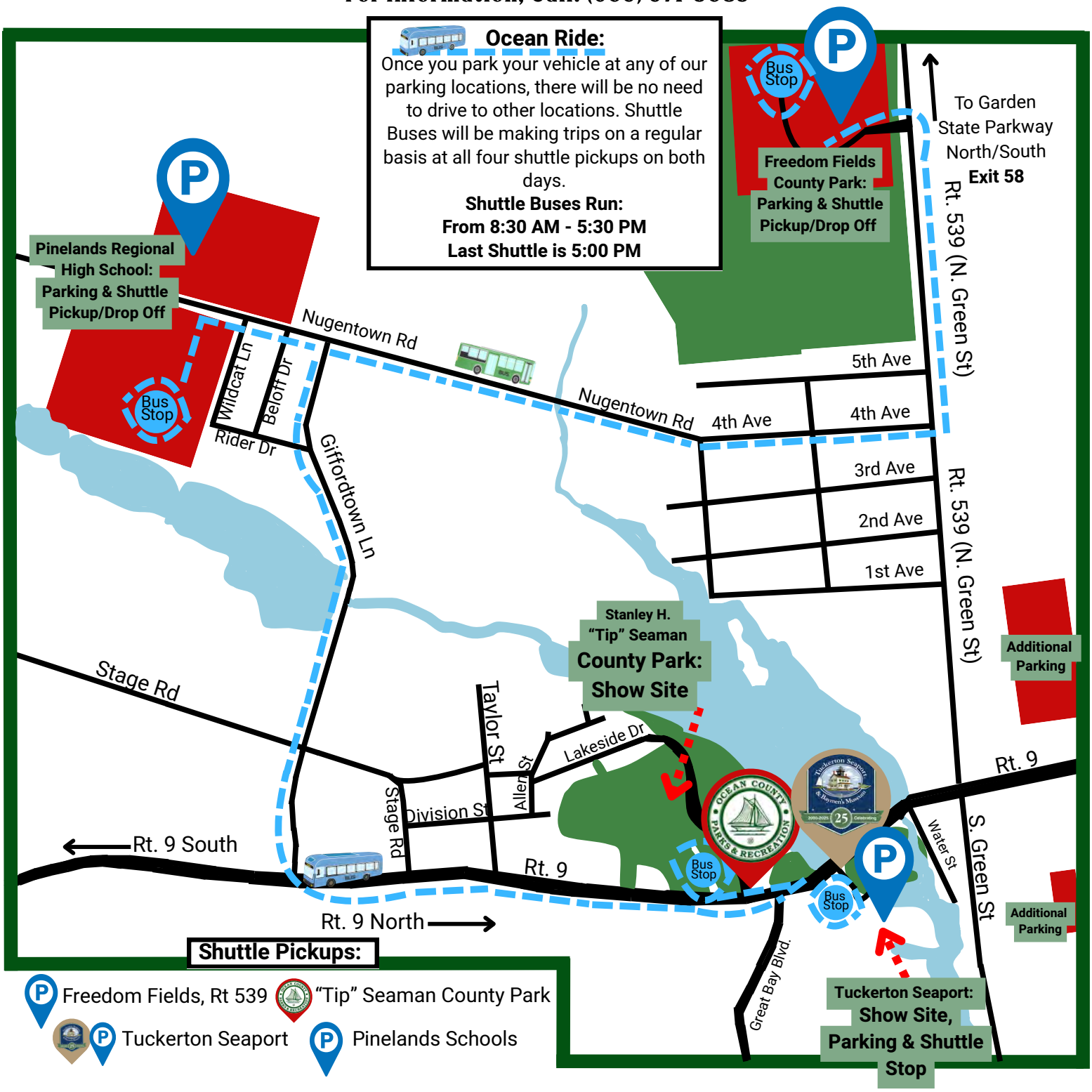
44th Annual

Old Time Barnegat Bay
DECOY & GUNNING SHOW
Shuttle Bus Map

Don't Miss Both Locations!

Stanley H. "Tip" Seaman County Park & Tuckerton Seaport

*****For Information, Call: (609) 971-3085*****



Plan Your Weekend!



ADA Parking:
Enter through main entrance at Tip Seaman County Park

At the Seaport:
Free Admission to the Museum, Children's Activities, & Boat Rides!

Additional Parking

Rt. 539 (N. Green St)

Taylor St

Stage Rd

Lakeside Dr

Allen St

Division St

Stage Rd

Lake Pohatcong

Rt. 9 North

"Tip" Seaman County Park

Rt. 9

Water St

S. Green St

Rt. 9 South

Bus Stop

Bus Stop

Tuckerton Seaport

Additional Parking

Great Bay Blvd.

At the Park:

- Games & Crafts
- Live Music
- Archery
- Exhibitors
- Food Court
- Demonstrations
- Presentations
- Community Center: Art Contest Exhibits
- Contests
- Decoy Judging
- Skeet Shooting
- Retriever Dog Contest
- Dock Dogs Demos
- Duck & Goose Calling
- Vendors
- History Displays

Rt. 9 North & South:
Restaurants, Quick Bites, Shops, & Additional Parking all within walking distance of show sites!

30th Annual Decoy Show Collector's Pin



Add To Your Collection For ONLY $5 !

Each year the show highlights the "Bird of the Year."
The 2026 commemorative pins feature the
Northern Pintail (Anas acuta) modeled from a decoy carved by Gary Bell.

Look for this cloisonne pin on sale at the Ocean County Parks & Recreation show booth, show gate, and the Tuckerton Seaport.
For more information, call Wells Mills County Park: 609-971-3085

FIND DECOY & GUNNING SHOW MOVIES, STORIES, AND MORE ONLINE!

As part of an ongoing commitment to preserving Barnegat Bay traditions, the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission provides a series of archives containing everything from Conklin Awardees to documentaries:

- Barnegat Bay Documentaries: https://www.co.ocean.nj.us/oc/ch/frmBarnegatBayDocs.aspx
- Decoy Award: Presented to people who have participated in various contests offered at the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show https://www.co.ocean.nj.us/oc/ch/frmDecoyAwardees.aspx
- Decoy Show Stories: Written for the Decoy & Gunning Show Program Book, these stories cover a variety of topics concerning the Barnegat Bay and surrounding environments https://www.co.ocean.nj.us/oc/ch/frmDecoyStories.aspx
- Hurley Conklin Awardees: Presented to people who have lived in the Barnegat Bay tradition. This award has been named in honor of the last of the Great Old Time Barnegat Bay Carvers, Hurley Conklin. https://www.co.ocean.nj.us/oc/ch/frmDecoyListing.aspx
- Ocean County Cultural & Heritage website: http://www.co.ocean.nj.us/OC/ch/

2026 Bird of the Year
Northern Pintail

By Josh Gant

The Northern Pintail is a gorgeous duck, prized for its striking colors and pleasant taste. The drake has a chestnut neck and head and a blue bill with a central black streak. It has a bright white streak from the breast up the neck sides, creating a scoop-neck collar appearance. In the right light you may even get a glimpse of the rosy wash where the white streak meets the brown of the back of the head. Pintails are named for their long central tail feathers giving the bird an elongated appearance. Their sides are patterned with light and dark gray vermiculation, a pattern of dense lines with irregular patterns.

The hen pintail is a very finely patterned bird with more delicate features. Many shades of browns and tans mark her slender frame. Although the tail feathers of the hens are not as long as those of the drake, they still are longer than most other North American dabbling duck species. Both the drake and hen have a green speculum with a border of white and tan on their secondary feathers usually only seen in their full brilliance when in flight.

Northern Pintails, also commonly called sprigs or sprig-tails, can be found in shallow coastal and inland waters in New Jersey. They feed primarily on seeds, aquatic vegetation, and invertebrates. On their breeding grounds, they are one of the earliest waterfowl to nest. The female nests away from the water's edge and within one day of the ducklings hatching they walk to the nearest body of water to feed and grow.

As with most of our migratory dabbling ducks in New Jersey, they nest in the wetlands of the prairie pothole region of North America. This geographic region, including much of the Dakotas, Montana, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Canada, was created over tens of thousands of years from glacial activity. As the massive glaciers moved south they scoured shallow scars across the land. As the ice sheets retreated and the scars filled with water, the prairie potholes were born. Needless to say, it took a while for this ecosystem to form.



The glaciers also brought something else into that area, nutrients in the form of crushed rock and displaced soil. This led to the prairie pothole region becoming a hub of agriculture in North America. This has become the largest threat to the Northern Pintail populations. The draining and filling of the potholes for better agricultural conditions has led to many thousands of acres of wetlands being lost. In the 1950's, the population was estimated at 9 million, decreasing in the 70's to an estimated 6 Million. That number was cut in half over the next three decades, and has slowly been recovering since. With a stable current population estimate of 3.3 million, this duck is not considered imperiled but actions must be taken if we are to maintain the population at a healthy number.

Thankfully, since 1958 the federal government has been purchasing, protecting, and restoring wetlands in the prairie pothole region with funds raised through the sale of federal duck stamps. The lands purchased through this program are known as Waterfowl Production Areas. Through this federal program over 668,000 acres of prairie wetlands have been purchased and protected. Although that acreage only makes up 2% of the whole region, these Waterfowl Production Areas produce 23% of the waterfowl there. Just imagine how many more ducks we could have if more of these potholes were protected and restored.

2026 SHOW VENDORS & EXHIBITORS

*as of June 30, 2026

Tent

- Bayshore Decoys by Robert Reitmeyer
- Refuge Creek Decoy Rigs
- Cappy's Custom Knives
- Dave's Workshop
- Ralston "Hop" Edwards
- Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge
- Friends of Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge
- Friends of NRA
- Vincent Giannetto III
- Green Beret Spray
- Rich Haines
- Brett Klaproth Wildlife Photography
- Kootenai Creek Decoys
- Kyla & Poppy Jessen Decoys
- League of Women Voters of Ocean County
- Lighthouse Challenge of N.J.
- Marine Mammal Stranding Center
- NJ Conservation Officers Association
- NJ Ducks Unlimited
- Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation
- Ocean County Department of Planning
- Robert Peterson
- ReClam The Bay
- Michael Van Note Decoys
- Seaport Stitchers

Open Field

- Barnett's Pond Boxes
- Bellport Decoys
- Bell's Decoys
- Birds & Bees Honey Farms
- Cash's Corner LLC
- Charlie's Feather Co. Taxidermy
- CodyKai Calls
- Cohansey Meadows Farms

Open Field

- Colorful Collars
- Laurel Dabbs Decoys
- Stephen Decker
- Decoy Apparel Co.
- Delaware River Decoys
- The Duck Guru
- Bill Ethington Decoys
- EZ Dekes
- Clarence Fennimore Decoys
- Flyway Decoys
- Mark Ford Decoys
- Good Boy Biscuits & Bones
- William Hammarstrom
- Kevin Hammell Decoys
- J.P. Hand Decoy Maker
- Jode Hillman Decoys
- Holloway Boat Builder
- Mike Kensler - Woodburnings
- Killum Calls & Guide Service
- Marty Kristiansen
- Gene Marshall Decoys
- Russel Mathis
- McCay Wood Products
- Terry McNulty Decoys
- Midgette/Cordrey Decoys
- New Jersey Fur Harvesters
- NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
- NJ Forest Fire Service

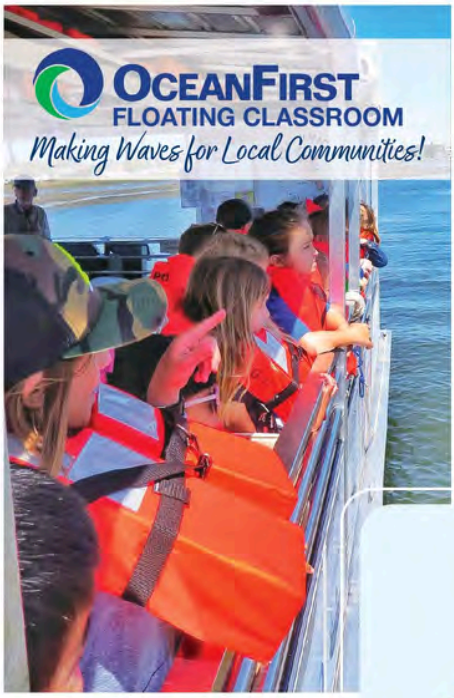
Open Field

- NJ Waterfowlers
- Ocean County Fire Marshal
- OceanicDecoys.com
- Rich Pemberton
- Piney Tribe
- Powell Decoy
- Quick Tripp Deer Recovery
- Steven Jay Sanford
- Save Barnegat Bay
- John Shores
- David Thibault Sr. Decoys
- Tommy Duck Decoys
- Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum
- Kevin Wharton Decoys

Food Vendors

- American Legion Post 493
- First Presbyterian Church
- Masonic Lodge
- New Gretna Volunteer Fire Co
- Pinelands Youth Sports
- Sons of American Legion
- St. Theresa's Church
- Tuckerton Library Association
- Tuckerton Seaport
- VFW 12173





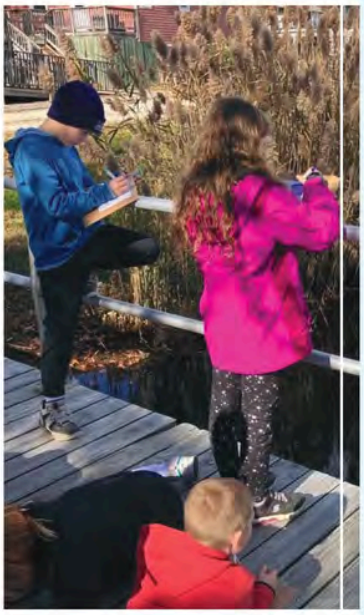


Ocean First
FLOATING CLASSROOM

Despite living in Ocean and Monmouth Counties, the overwhelming majority of students who have visited the Seaport have never actually been out on the water. Now is your chance.

Now Booking School Field Trips and Group Tours at Tuckerton Seaport!

Join us aboard the Floating Classroom, a 30-foot pontoon boat rated for 33 passengers, as a Seaport Captain and Tour Guide introduce you to the coastal culture of the Jersey Shore.







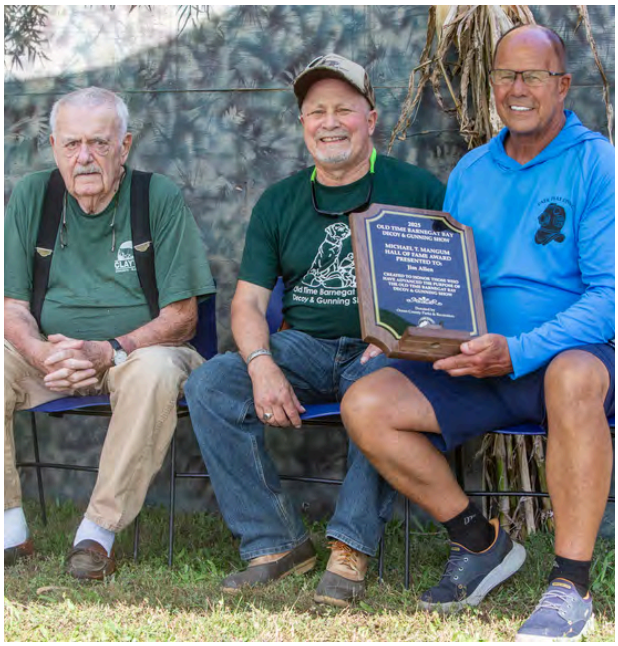


Contact tours@tuckertonseaport.org to reserve your date.

TUCKERTON SEAPORT · 120 West Main Street, Tuckerton · TuckertonSeaport.org







Old Time Barnegat Bay DECOY & GUNNING SHOW AWARDS

Awardees are nominated by the public and selected annually by the Decoy Show committee. Award Plaques are on exhibit at the Stanley "Tip" Seaman County Park Community Center. Awardee profiles can be found under the "archives" drop down on the website at www.co.ocean.nj.us/culturalheritage/
Awardees are honored each year at the award ceremony on the Sunday of the show at 3:30 pm.

HURLEY CONKLIN AWARD

Presented to people who have lived in the Barnegat Bay tradition. This award has been named in honor of the last of the great old time Barnegat Bay carvers, Hurley Conklin.
2026: Joan Seibert, Anthony Hillman, Terry McNulty, Herb Heinrichs

HARRY M. SHOURDS HERITAGE AWARD

The Shourds Heritage Award has been created to honor and promote the legacy of individuals who would qualify for a Hurley Conklin Award but who died before the award was introduced or before they were able to accept the award. The award is named after carver Harry M. Shourds for his contributions as a decoy carver and for carrying on the traditions of decoy carving through the generations.
2026: Hurley Conklin, Harry V. Shourds, Jim Seibert

MICHAEL T. MANGUM HALL OF FAME AWARD

The Michael T. Mangum Hall of Fame Award honors those who have advanced the purpose of the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show. The award is named after the show founder, longtime show coordinator, and former Ocean County Parks & Recreation Director Michael T. Mangum.
2026: Joe Smith, Stanley H. "Bud" Seaman

Harry V. Shourds (1861-1920)

2026 Heritage Awardee

By Grove Conrad

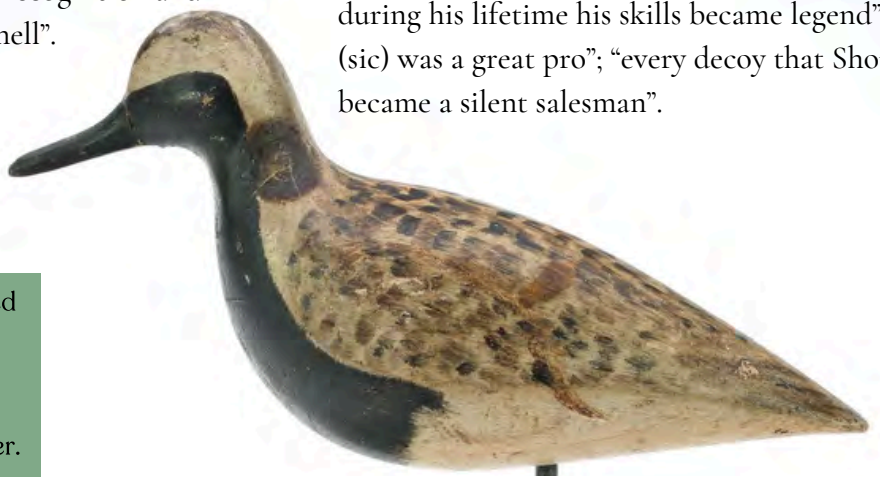
How appropriate that this 2026 Heritage Award be presented to a Shourds during the 250th anniversary of our country's Revolution. During the Revolution, there were approximately 12 Shourds men residing in Tuckerton, among them one Joseph Shourds, a 4th generation Grandfather of honoree Harry Vinuckson Shourds. This Joseph Shourds married Keziah Andrews in 1759 – Miss Andrews was the daughter of Edward Andrews, the man who drove the beavers from Tuckerton Creek and built a dam for his gristmill; today we are presenting this Heritage Award on the shore of that very lake that Harry V. Shourds' 4X maternal grandfather built. As for the Revolution, it is unlikely that any Shourds man fought either as a patriot or a tory – they were Quakers without exception.

How appropriate that this second annual heritage award is awarded to the father of the first heritage awardee! Both son and father were house painters and carpenters respectively. While father Harry passed his heritage (making classic Barnegat Bay decoys) to son Harry M., both are arguably the most recognized decoy makers of all New Jersey generations. Additionally, other family decoy makers that followed both (brother John Shourds, grandsons Alvin Shourds, great-grandsons Ross Shourds and Malcolm Robinson) owe their recognition and abilities to "Nucky" and "Mitchell".



Harry V. Shourds (1861-1920).
Photo courtesy of Ocean County.

How appropriate that despite no mention of Shourds in the first and classic 1935 book of decoy collecting, Joel Barber's "Wild-Fowl Decoys", William Mackey's seminal 1975 book "American Bird Decoys" recognizes Harry V. Shourds and devotes practically an entire chapter describing him as "the greatest professional decoy maker of New Jersey." Never mind that Mr. Mackey misspells Shourds as Shourdes or Shores throughout. Says Mackey: "Even during his lifetime his skills became legend" and "Shourdes (sic) was a great pro"; "every decoy that Shourdes made became a silent salesman".



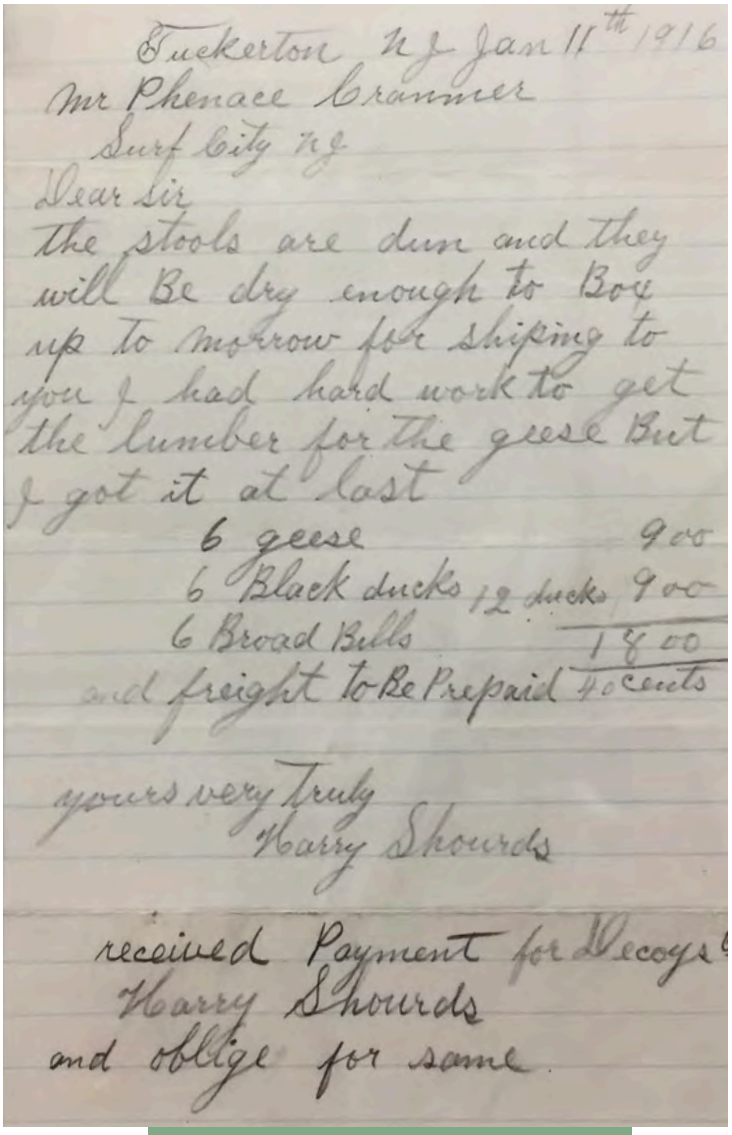
Harry V. Shourds Black Bellied Plover in summer plumage. Sold in 2025 at auction for $2,400.
Photo Credit: Guyette & Deeter.

How appropriate that Shourds decoys are prized by collectors throughout the United States and the auction houses offering Shourds decoys often "hammer" those birds for six figures, a far cry from Harry's six dollars a dozen charged at the beginning of the 20th century. Again, to quote from "American Bird Decoys" - "His kind will never appear along the tidewaters of the Atlantic coast and all of us are poorer without him."

This Heritage award was designed to recognize the legacy of those who would have qualified as a Hurley Conklin finalist had they lived to be so honored. Harry V. Shourds and Harry Mitchell Shourds are a redefinition of all past awards living or otherwise *how appropriate* for the show committee to recognize the greatness embodied in the legacy of these two men.

Harry V. Shourd Goose sold in 2025 at auction for $348,000
Photo credit: Guyette & Deeter





Tuckerton N J Jan 11th 1916
Mr Phenace Cranmer
Surf City N J
Dear Sir
the stools are dun and they will Be dry enough to Box up to morrow for shiping to you I had hard work to get the lumber for the geese But I got it at last
6 geese 900
6 Black ducks 12 ducks 900
6 Broad Bills 1800
and freight to Be Prepaid 40 cents
yours very Truly
Harry Shourds
received Payment for Decoys
Harry Shourds
and oblige for same

Above photo courtesy of James Allen.

Harry Vicknuckerson Shourds	Harry Mitchell Shourds	Harry V. Shourds II
(1861-1920)	(1840-1944)	(1930-2017)
2026 Heritage Awardee	2025 Heritage Awardee	1999 Conklin Awardee



Above photo courtesy of Ocean County.



Above photo courtesy of James Allen.



Above photo courtesy of Ocean County.

The Late Great Hurley Conklin (1913-1991)

2026 Heritage Awardee

By J.P. Hand

One of the most remarkable characters I've ever met was my friend and mentor, Hurley Conklin. Hurley was one of the last professional decoy makers in the true sense of the word. He carved South Jersey hollow cedar gunning decoys by the dozen beginning sometime after his return from service in WWII. Hurley's decoys with their sleek profiles and stylized paint patterns always stand out in a crowd, despite the lack of much detailed carving. His originality and carving skill is evident in his work, beginning with his early unbranded gunning stools which evolved into to his exquisite "shelf ducks" from the 1970s and 80s.



Conklin chopping out a swan. Photo courtesy of J.P. Hand.

Unfortunately, despite all the time I spent with Hurley, I never asked him much about his early carving days. I know that historian and decoy collector Grove Conrad has stated that a carver named Frank Lamson influenced the young Hurley in his decoy-making efforts. Both men lived in the village of Mayetta, (as did other Lamson and Conklin families). When comparing Conklin decoys with those attributed to Lamson, there is no doubt as to that connection. That being said, I see the influence of my all-time favorite carver, Nathan Rowley Horner in Hurley's work. I've often said, "Hurley took up where Rowley left off." While Horner was from Tuckerton, he lived all over Ocean County as an adult; Dover, Long Beach Island, and lastly West Creek (Eagleswood). Hurley grew up in Mayetta just up Rt 9 a few miles. Horner died at around 60 years of age in 1942, and Hurley came home from the War in 1944. If Hurley didn't know him, he surely saw plenty of Rowley's decoys.

As with most "professional" decoy makers, Hurley's style changed over the years. His work can be described as early (made for gunning only), transitional, and his later refined "shelf ducks" as he liked to call them. In fact, Hurley Conklin was one of the few contemporary carvers who developed their own recognizable style (as did Bob White, George Strunk and Pete Peterson to name a few). The work of Conklin and the others mentioned can be described as a "school": an original style that influenced the work of other carvers in their region.

Years ago, a fellow collector referred to Conklin decoys as "cartoonish", which I believe can be considered a compliment. For centuries, political cartoonists have exaggerated certain characteristics of their subjects making a character easily identifiable without the use of text. Hurley did the same when designing and carving a decoy. His early decoys can be described as handsome, functionable working stools, where his later work, especially his "shelf ducks" can be described as sleek and racy. Over a half a century of carving, Hurley carved most duck and goose and shorebird species found in

South Jersey. During the latter part of his career, he seemed to like carving Red Breasted Mergansers, Hooded Mergansers, Green-winged Teal, Black Ducks, and Brant, as they made up a lot of his production. Gadwalls and Wood Ducks and maybe Mallards by Conklin are especially rare, and not so much, Buffleheads, Blue-winged Teal, and Common Mergansers.

Hurley grew up in the Mayetta/Cedar Run area of Stafford Township, just below Manahawkin. He was one of the eight children of Charles W. Conklin and Kathryn (Katie) Hyde Conklin. Not long after meeting Hurley I asked him what nationality he was and he replied, "I think we're Irish." I wish I knew then what I know now; I'd long suspected that the Ocean County Conklins were descended from the "Conklings" of eastern Long Island, New York.

A couple of hours of research for this bio revealed that the Conklins, or the "Conklings" as the earliest ones spelled it, were in Stafford Township well before the American Revolution. Not long after arriving in Stafford, the folks by the name of Conklin dropped the "G" at the end of their name. It turns out that Hurley, like his great-grandfather Amariah Conklin (born New Jersey 1809), was a descendant of Annanias Conkling who left County Staffordshire, England and landed in Salem, Massachusetts by 1639. That first Conklin in America, along with the Birdsalls, Hands, and Hildreths, was one of the earliest settlers in the whaling village of East Hampton, Long Island (where he died in 1657). The fact that Stafford Township is named for the home county of the earliest Conklin immigrant is one hell of a coincidence.

Hurley might have gotten a kick out of knowing that his ancestors back on Long Island in the 1600s were likely killing ducks (and whales) with the relatives of Artie Birdsall and myself and probably quite a few other members of the New Jersey Decoy Collectors Assocation.

By the way, the 1850 Federal Census shows that Hurley's great-grandfather Amariah Conklin couldn't leave his Stafford farm without bumping into a Cranmer, a "Spragg", or a Lamson. The Census records list Hurley, his father Charles, and his grandfather Peter Conklin as "bayman". Commercial clamming seems to be the most common occupation for generations of the Conklin family and their neighbors.



Photo credit: Guyette & Deeter.

Hurley left school after the 6th grade and the 1930 Census lists him as a 17-year-old "Bayman" working in the "seafood industry" with his older brothers, Amos 23, and Alvin 21. He may have started carving decoys a little at this time (I wish I had asked him more about that). Hurley continued to work as a clammer until WWII, during which he served in the U. S. Army for 3 1/2 years in North Africa and France (1941-1944). After the war, Hurley married a girl from up the road in Berkeley Township (Mary E. Johnson). They built a house on Parker Street in Manahawkin where they raised their daughter while Hurley made a living at various pursuits; making decoys, carpentry work, and guiding for the Marsh Elder Gun Club.

Below are some anecdotes of things I know of or that Hurley shared with me. As a carver myself, I've always credited Hurley and Harry Shourds III as being my mentors. The difference between the two; Harry let me watch him, while Hurley took me under his wing.



Hurley told me that one winter (1950s-1960s) he made 95 of his "paddle tail" Canada Geese; that is, chopped, spoke shaved, hollowed & sanded all by hand!

Photo credit: Guyette & Deeter.

He was a true "bayman", did a little of this, a little of that. One time a man with a heavy German accent came to see him and said he wanted a "cesspool duck", Hurley replied, "Well, I make black ducks, brant and sheldrakes, but I don't make any cesspool ducks." ...It turned out the man wanted a cesspool *dug*.

Decoy dealer, Zeke Zasz of Barnegat (by way of Elizabeth, North Jersey), once told me that he quit buying ducks from Hurley when he raised his price from $19 to $21; Hurley told me he ended their working relationship when Zeke tried to pay him for some decoys with a check written out in pencil!

According to Mike Mangum, Hurley set up at table at the first Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show. As far as I know, Hurley only regularly exhibited at one decoy show, the "Quail Hill Inn" show, which was put on by Fred and Ethel Noyes. He only did that show because it was free, and a seafood buffet was served to the exhibitors after the show. Hurley didn't put up a fancy display, just a bare table with ducks lined up like cars at an auto dealer. Most of Hurley's decoys were pre-sold anyway.

Hurley held about the same view regarding decorative carvers as I did back then. One time as exhibitors were setting up at the Quail Hill show, Hurley turned to me and nodded in the direction of someone carrying an armful of burnt-feather ducks with more ribbons than a mummer in a Philly string band and said, "see him carrying all the **** in here, he'll be carrying it out at the end of the day". Hurley wasn't arrogant, but he knew he was good! Hurley loved his little poodle, Pebbles. I don't remember if it was Pebbles or an earlier dog but



Conklin (L) and J.P. Hand (R). Photo courtesy: J.P. Hand.

Hurley told me the dog only ever bit one person, decoy collector Russell Holst (Russell had been forewarned not to pet the dog). My wife's grandfather, John McCann, owned "the shack" and 400 acres on the Wading River and gunned with a dozen of Hurley's teal. Russell Holtz's parents were close family friends and after John McCann died, Russell took all but one of the teal off the widow's hands.

Many veterans don't like to share their wartime experiences, or in many cases not until their later years. Hurley was different, serving in the U.S. Army in Africa and France in WWII may have been traumatic, but it was the biggest event in his life. He shared with me (and many of you) lots of stories about foxholes in the North African desert and later his time in France spent driving an officer around in a jeep.



Photo credit: Guyette & Deeter.

Hurley was proud of his work as a decoy maker and wasn't easily impressed with stool by other carvers. I personally watched him take nondescript "clunkers" and re-carve the original heads to make them prettier; today those birds would appear to have been re-headed by Hurley.

The father and son duck hunting team of Dirk Van Nest and Peter Van Nest gunned over more Conklins than anyone I've ever met. Pete told me that they had about 60 of Hurley's broadbills, 36 brant, a small rig of buffleheads and some black ducks. They also had the only rig of Conklin canvasbacks I've ever seen. Interestingly, Dirk bought some of the birds unpainted to save money and painted them himself. Years later he took those ones back to Hurley and had him paint them. Some would call those repaints, but in my opinion, they are original; Dirk primed them and

Hurley gave them the finish coat, just many years later! I have a pair of those buffleheads, two of my favorites, with the initials *V N* for "Van Nest" carved under the bills. One time while I was visiting Hurley, he expressed his admiration for carver Gene Hendrickson. I don't know the connection between them or how Hurley knew him, but Hurley obviously thought a lot of him.

By the time I met Hurley, he had given up gunning for ducks. He told me in his low, slow voice, "I've killed enough ducks, I don't need to kill anymore." As I approached my 60s, I started to feel the same way. While he didn't gun anymore, most every day Hurley would leave his house in Manahawkin and drive down to Cedar Run Landing "to see what was there". I was lucky enough to share that experience with him on quite a few occasions.



Conklin, J.P. Hand, Harry V. Shourds. Photo courtesy: J.P. Hand.

New Jersey Decoy Collectors Association

33rd Annual Decoy, Art & Hunting Collectibles Show and Sale

"Best Old Decoy Show in New Jersey"

Saturday, April 10, 2027
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26 : 9:00AM – 4:00PM
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SEARCH: 15 dressed-up rubber ducks are hidden in plain sight all over the park during the Decoy & Gunning Show. Walk around the show and search the event locations to find as many as you can!

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HURLEY CONKLIN AWARDEES

1986 Sam Hunt

1987 Pete Wilbur

1988 Turney Smith

1989 Randall Cranmer, Ray Kennedy, Hayes Parker, Roger West, Carl Hewitt

1990 Jack Cervetto, Elmer Mott, Ed Hazelton Sr., John Petzak, George Heinrichs, Joe Reid, Joe Smith

1991 Weldon Parker, Charles E. Hankins, Fred Kalm, Bob Rutter Sr., Bob Rutter, Rocky Wyckoff, Bob Leek, Eppie Falkingburg, Ed Heinrichs, Bert Courtney, Fred Bahr

1992 Melvin Parker, Joe Sprague, Paul Steinhauer, Capt. Percy Giddes, Emil Parker, Somers Headley, Capt. Chet Holman, Tom Nickerson, Capt. Owen Ridgeway, Joe Inman, Dick McKandless, Capt. Ken Wilson Sr., Milton Cranmer, Capt. Steve "Sparky" Dickerson, Otto Froriep Sr., Nathaniel Boone Driscoll, Allen Tonneson

1993 Capt. Lew Broome, Peter Oliver Bahr, Bert Cranmer, Bill Cranmer, Capt. Dick Clineman, Paul Lafferty, Lachlan Beaton, Capt. Calvin Wilson, Martin Bob Chadwick, Elliott Giles, Ernie Cranmer, Perry Inman, Charlie Richards

1994 Capt. Dellwin Sooy, Robert D. Conti, Lorna Chadwick Shinn, Dave "Cricket" Winton, Winston Newman, Carolyn Chadwick, Capt. Ken Allen, Ed Brown, Enoch Jablonski, Walt Ludlow, Cliff Lashley, Capt. Herb Schoenberg

1995 Phil Hart, Gurney Hart, Walter "Shorty" Hart, Paul D. "Pete" McLain, Cliff Frazee, Gladys Eayre, Herschel Abbott, Eldora Abbott, Leah "Sis" Horner Marr, Russell Bowen, John Cavileer

1996 Horace Cavileer, Milt Heinzer, Major Leek, Don Maxwell, Jack Parsons, Mason Price, Maurice "Merce" Ridgeway, Edward J. Smith, Arthur "Oppie" Speck, Stella S. Wegst

1997 Reeves O. "Slim" Hornby, Norman Dupont, Joe Forsyth, Capt. Paul Bonnell, Herlan "Blue" Cornelius, Florence Cavileer, Marion Speck, Stanley Conklin, John Marvin Inman

1998 Bill de Freitas III, Harry de Freitas, Alston Allen, William Jenks, Charles Paul, Kenneth Holman

1999 Bob Gaskill, Gus Heinrichs, Harry Shourds, Edna Marshall, Herb Bell, Jack Scheimreif, Harry Rogers

2000 Ken Maxwell, Edward Ahearn, Janice Sherwood, John Lafferty, Sam Leifried, Elwood Harvey

2001 Steven Potter, Benny Allen, Enoch Pharo, John Chadwick, Dave Paul, Sr., Bob Wilson

2002 Bub Johnson, Gary Giberson, Ross Wilson, Jim Hutchinson

2003 Ronald M. Bozarth, Nelson Holloway, Richard Crema, Richard Beckley

2004 Ray Nyman, Edwin P. Thompson

2005 Capt. John Larson, Henry Althouse, William Shoemaker, William Godfrey

2006 Richard W. Matthews, John "Jack" Vanaman

2007 Alvin Shourds, John Scott Rutherford

2008 Capt. Bob Fricke

2009 Jim Leek, Malcolm Robinson, Captain Phil Anderson

2010 John R. Holloway, George Mathis Sr., Carl Tarnow

2011 Albert Gabriel, Capt. Michael "Mickey" King, Halvor "Sonny" Skie, Capt. George Svelling

2012 Anthony A. Schairer, Capt. John "Jack Jr." Kennell

2013 John M. Chadwick, Don Cramer, George Mikuletzky, Dale Parsons, Wanda Parsons

2014 Ron "Poss" Hammell, Ray Huber Jr., John Joseph Maxwell

2015 Fred Lesser, George Mathis, Jr., Newt Sterling, Joe "Spike" Mott

2016 Captain Joel E. Mick, Steve C. Frazee

2017 John Passuth, Ed McCay

2018 J.P. Hand, Dave Rhodes, Arthur J. Birdsall

2019 Dick Jessen, Joe Rizzo, Bill Simonsen

2020 Lewis "Spike" Wells, Raymond Huber, III

2021 Kris Anderson, Clarence Fennimore

2022 Will Russell Hammerstrom, William Skeie

2023 Thomas R. Beaton, Robert Beloff, Paul N. Smith, William de Rouville, Sr.

2024 Gary Driscoll, W. Fred Reitmeyer, Jr.

2025 Mark Ford, George Strunk

2026 Herb Heinrichs, Anthony Hillman, Terry McNulty, Joan Seibert

Jim & Joan Seibert

2026 Heritage Awardee & Conklin Awardee

By Pat Johnson

Trees and flowering shrubs almost hide the home that Jim and Joan Seibert built in Dennisville, New Jersey. Forty acres surround the rustic house; twenty of them are salt marsh, a selling point for her husband, said Joan, since he was an avid duck hunter.

The couple spent fifty years together carving decorative birds and producing hunting decoys for the sportsmen market. Sadly, Jim passed away in 2012. Since then, Joan did not feel she could take the Conklin Award without Jim being honored as well. Both deserving of the honor, the Decoy Show Committee selected Joan Seibert for the Conklin Award and Jim Seibert with the new, posthumous Harry M. Shourds Heritage Award.

"We were one entity - always identified as Jim and Joan Seibert at the shows. We always worked together," said Joan.

Jim and Joan met while attending college. "We were the first art majors graduating from Glassboro—(now Rowan University.)" The couple taught art education in public schools. Joan and Jim taught for 11 years before they decided to start their decoy business and move back to where Jim grew up.

"When we lived in North Jersey we had some friends who invited us to go to Long Island to our first decoy show and Jim met Al McCormick –he was called 'Mr. Decoy'.



Photo Credit: Pat Johnson.



Photos Courtesy: Joan Seibert.

He would teach guys to make cork decoys. So they would be down in the basement rasping cork decoys and it created static electricity and he'd be covered in dark brown cork. But that's how he started. This was in 1970."

Jim carved mainly Delaware and Barnegat style decoys. While Jim carved full sized birds, Joan carved miniatures. "This is how I started carving miniatures: he had blocks of wood—he cut out the pattern and what was leftover were the corners. That's why I do that size. Honest to God that's how I started."

The couple bought the Delaware Decoy Company from decoy carver Terry McNulty and worked it for 15 years. The machine-made decoys were rough carved on a type of router from a set pattern and could turn out 12 at a time. From there, the Seiberts did fine carving, sanding, and painting to finish the birds. "We really turned out a lot of birds. And we invented the jingle birds—(a decorative song bird with a bell attached). "We made and sold a lot of them."

The Delaware Decoy Company sold wholesale to hunters. "We had a huge machine in the barn. We would

be up to our knees in sawdust. I did all the sanding and he did all the carving. At first we did all the painting but then we had to hire people to help."

Besides the hunting decoys, the couple worked on their own designs. "We never worked together on a bird but we advised each other," said Joan. "Jim was great with color. We worked together every day, daytime in the barn and nighttime decorative carving. We had a life!"

Because of his art background, Jim was very creative, said Joan. He made a model carousel with birds instead of horses. He made Noah's Arks with Joan's miniatures on the deck. His showstoppers included a life-size flying osprey and a diorama of a German shorthair puppy flushing three quail. "He made a lot of woodcock –hunters loved woodcocks –you can always sell a woodcock," said Joan.

"We used basswood for decorative birds –it's soft and the grain doesn't get in the way. Basswood is good for burning details like feathers. For working decoys we used cedar or pine."

The Seiberts started the Wings and Water Festival in Stone Harbor that ran for 30 years and was held the weekend before the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy and Gunning show in Tuckerton. They also started the Cape May show on the Boardwalk that is no longer. Both served as contest judges at shows. For ten years Jim was the resident decoy carver at Wheaton Village.

The life of a decoy carver means meeting lots of other decoy carvers and collectors at shows and the couple had many lifelong friends.

"We were very friendly with Hurley (Conklin) and Harry V. Shourds. Hurley was a regular guy but what I remember most is he had twinkling eyes. Everyone in the county carves with Jamie Hand—he, Tony Hillman, and myself are the last 'men' standing."

When Jim got sick, the couple sold the Jingle Bird franchise to the Bird House in Cape May and sold the Delaware Decoy Company to 'a couple of guys' in Nebraska.

They also sold their extensive collection of decoys to pay hospital bills. Joan is 84 and after her husband died she stopped carving and doing shows. Then a year ago, a collector of Joan's work, Jim Hudgins, a retiree from Fish and Wildlife Service, persuaded her to pick up her tools again. At 84, she is carving and painting again and enjoying it.

Looking back, "I think I had a wonderful life!" she said.







Photos Courtesy: Joan Seibert.

Anthony Hillman

2026 Hurley Conklin Awardee

By Pat Johnson

As an outdoorsman, a painter, decoy carver, and author, Anthony "Tony" Hillman is a perfect candidate for the Conklin Award and as the artist of this year's show print.



Hillman with 2026 Decoy Show artwork. Photo credit: Pat Johnson.

Born in Atlantic City in 1948 and raised in North Wildwood, he remembers a different, quieter shore than today. "I could go outside and play and I wandered all over. The beach and the marsh were my playgrounds. I spent a lot of time fishing and crabbing at Tony's Marina and the owners would feed me lunch. On the road to the marina there was an osprey nest on every pole."

His father was a WWII veteran and worked as a TV repairman and his mom was a housewife who knew how to cook the ducks his brothers would bring home. His father also worked occasionally with famous decoy carver Harry Mitchell Shourds painting houses.

He had four brothers and was the next to the youngest in the pecking order. When his two older brothers hunted, it was Tony's job to skin the birds. "I took a correspondence course in taxidermy but it didn't take."

Looking back into his extensive genealogy, Hillman recounted there is a Lt. Col. Josiah Hillman who fought in the Revolutionary War with George Washington and had oversight of a fort on the Delaware. There was also a John Hillman who was a house painter and carver in the 1700s. "Maybe the carving genes came from him," Hillman speculated.

"I always drew birds. As a kid I drew on the end papers of the Book of Knowledge (Encyclopedia)."

When Hillman graduated from High School in 1966 he went to the Hussian School of Art in Philadelphia for six months. The war in Vietnam was heating up and he joined the Marines before being drafted. He was enrolled in the anti-tank division at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. He thought he might be sent to Vietnam but he wound up going to sea school. He was on a destroyer that held 40 marines and 1,200 sailors. "We were in the Mediterranean and I was always looking at the birds that would alight on the rigging during their migration. I was on the ship a year and a day."

Back at Camp Lejeune he drew military weapons from manuals for slides used for training purposes. It was his first experience with commercial art skills.

After his service he returned to Philly, married, and had a daughter. He got jobs with prestigious commercial and advertising firms but he missed the shore. "I was getting an ulcer and I hated living in the city." So he took his bride and daughter to a small house on the bay in Brigantine. "My brother said I should go clamming. Well, we had a dock and there was an old garvey in the

yard half full of water and I bailed it out and started scratch raking hard clams. I averaged 800 to 1,200 clams on a tide. I'd take them to Pleasantville and sell them. I loved clamming, the birds would follow you around as you stirred up the mud." He also hunted and made his own decoys. His young daughter helped him paint snow geese flatties.

All through his life he kept on painting and drawing—watercolors of marsh scenes and ducks. He went to Stockton University and got a degree in painting. He still had connections in Philadelphia and did illustrations for Gray and Rodgers Advertising Agency, spot illustrations for the Fish and Wildlife Service and other clients. When his family moved to Seaville, he met Harry V. Shourds and they traveled to decoy shows together. Since Hillman knew commercial art he decided to do a shorebird pattern book with Shourds. "We did full size profiles and top views, we ring-bound it and printed 500 copies." "Harry and I did three books together and I later did the (decoy) painting books. I've published seven or eight books and sold over 100,000 copies." The books made his name in decoys. "You can't buy better advertising," he said.

His own style of decoy carving is self-taught by watching others carve.

"I used to visit Hurley Conklin. From him I learned to stretch the bodies out for more visibility. Hurley had talent to take a pattern and reduce it to its essentials."

"I was friends with Sam Hunt. I made him a couple of nice black ducks. Sam built me a sneakbox. He taught me a lot about wood."

Because of his friendship with Hunt, Hillman was invited to attend the 1983 Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife in Washington D.C.

"They said Sammy wouldn't go without me," said Hillman. "The Smithsonian sent a big truck to Sam's house in Waretown and took an 18-foot garvey and a 12-foot sneakbox. Sam threw a bunch of shoes in a gunnysack and we went to the festival."

The festival that year was highlighting New Jersey folk artists and French/American music and dance.

"It was two weeks in the summer and we had a great time. We were in a tent next to a bunch of Cajun musicians. Not everyone knows that Sam was a terrific dancer. He danced all day with Alice Ridgeway.

"Our tent was all decoys. Arthur Pelligrin was in his 80s. He carved in tupolo wood. Charlie Hankins and his helper set up a steam box and built a sea skiff.

"I had some black ducks that I sold and I met people from all over the world. A guy from Germany ordered a bird from me."

Hillman is known not only for his decoys and his books but for his miniatures. Ever the salesman, he notes that, "Everybody has room for miniatures."

He was chosen this year to paint the cover illustration for the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy and Gunning Show, a real honor.

His pattern and painting books of ducks, shorebirds, fish decoys and miniatures have inspired countless craftsmen and hobbyists and are still found on eBay and other outlets. And although he still carves for clients, "I'm as busy as I want to be, I had lots of work pressure when I was doing commercial art and I never said no but when it comes to decoys, I don't want to be rushed."



2026 Hillman Rudy Duck.
Photo Credit: Mike Mangum.

Herb Heinrichs
2026 Conklin Awardee

By Pat Johnson

Decoy carver and artist Herb Heinrichs is part of a large family in Tuckerton that has included many talented tradesmen. His uncle was boat builder Gus Heinrichs. His Great Uncle was Captain Edward "Sock" Heinrichs, the owner of the Heinrichs boat shop and marine railway on Tuckerton Creek (current site of the Tuckerton Seaport). His grandmother Elsie had a dairy farm on Wood Street in Tuckerton and his grandfather Ed ran the tugboat and truck for the Fish Factory on Crab Island off Brigantine Road (also known as Great Bay Boulevard or Seven Bridges Road). His father was one of eight children: five sisters, Berta, Peggy, Reds (Elsie), Sis and Judy and two brothers, Alvie and Russell. His Dad was also Herb and was a builder. Herb Jr. grew up on Wood Street with sister Diane and brother Mark.

Tuckerton was very different then—it was a town that was 50 years behind the times. Hunting was a regular pastime for most of the boys. "We went duck hunting every chance we had. Back then it was food for the table. Since my grandfather ran the truck for the fish factory we were able to get permission to sink boxes in the meadows and hunt from them. Yes, we had decoys. Some of them were probably Horners, Shourdses, McAnnys – but I lost them all- some were stolen right out of the boat- but it is what it is," said Heinrichs.

Hunting was so common that boys were able to take their guns to school and leave them in their lockers. "It was nothing to see a kid with a shotgun. One night after school, I shot two rabbits on Mrs. Richmond's lawn on Cedar Street and she didn't say anything. If you'd do that today—you'd get locked up."

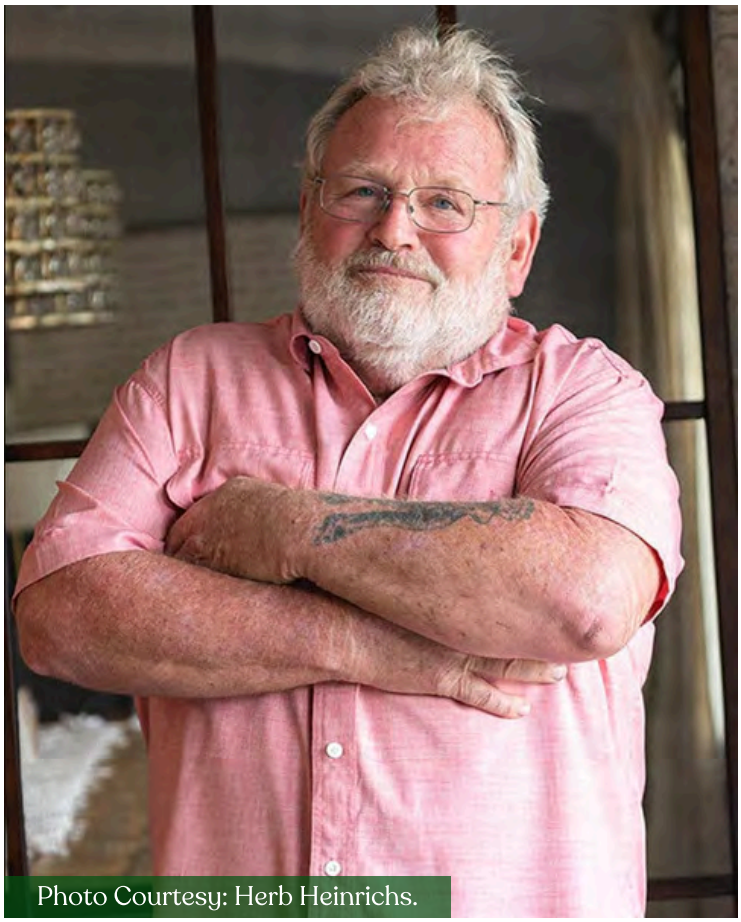


Photo Courtesy: Herb Heinrichs.

Like other boys in the area, Heinrichs went clamming in the bay. "My first boat was a 14' sneakbox my father bought from Parkertown. I was ten or eleven. I went out with three buddies: Davy Miller, Johnny Godfry and Louie Driscoll. For our age we caught 200 or 300 a day tredding, later it was thousands. I clammed up until 1999. I had 19 acres of clam beds in the bay. I would plant the seed and 18 months later I would have small clams. I loved it. I wish I could still do it."

Another pastime was garvey racing and Heinrichs had a T-101 souped-up garvey. "Me and Billy Mott had The Miss Town Tavern. Races were held every weekend in Tuckerton, West Creek, Barnegat or Pleasantville. I'll tell you how it started: Pat and Joe Heinrichs, Eddie and George were coming back from clamming and decided to race their boats. It could have been others: Rocky Wycoff and some. And from there it took off—boats got bigger and fancier. This was in the early '60s."

When racing, Heinrichs met Brenda, his wife of 56 years, in a tavern in North Jersey. "I had blown an engine in my boat and I took the engine out of her car and put it in my boat. That seemed like a proposal."

Heinrichs started decoy carving in 1978 when he and Brenda moved to Louisiana. "That's where I accepted Jesus, the most important thing in my life." When visiting Tuckerton, "I saw Tommy Ryder carving decoys and that's when I got serious. I thought I'd run with it. I started going to shows and selling stuff."

When the couple moved back to Tuckerton ten years later, Heinrichs attended the decoy shows and taught decoy carving at Pinelands High School adult classes. "I loved doing that because when you are teaching, you are also teaching yourself." He also judged decoy contests for many years, as did his son Keith.

Heinrichs was one of the founders of the Barnegat Bay Decoy and Baymen's Museum (Tuckerton Seaport), serving as the President for the first year. "A handful of us were hanging out at Tips Hardware (in West Creek) and talking. We formed an association and it took off. It started as a way of doing something for kids. That was what was in my heart —to save Tuckerton's heritage."

The Museum was on Main Street at the entrance to Tip Seaman County Park. It was later moved across the street to the current site of the Tuckerton Seaport, and that original building now serves as the Hunting Shanty - a space for programs, community meetings, and exhibits.



Above: Heinrichs, 1996 Decoy Show. Photo credit: Mike Mangum

Below: Heinrichs, 2026. Photo credit: Heinrichs family.



The Museum was built with volunteer labor. "While we were building it I got sick and so I stepped down as president. I'm better now."

While in Tuckerton, he took a few oil painting classes with local artist Joyce Lawrence. "I used to hate to draw but in 2016, I picked up a pencil. Then one Sunday in church, a guy I know said I should try pastel and I absolutely love it! This is all God's work."



Painting by Herb Heinrichs.

Heinrichs now lives in Green Cove Springs on Florida's East Coast surrounded by 50 acres of woods. "I love the woods. I have a sawmill and a workshop and I can make noise. But I love Tuckerton. My son lives in New Gretna and rebuilds boats. He has an oyster farm with 150 floating boxes. When we visit we stay in his houseboat."

Heinrichs has won many awards for his decoys including Best in Show for a brant in the working decoy contest. Heinrichs was also the artist for the 2001 Decoy Show Print depicting Heinrichs Boatworks and the bird of the year, Ruddy Ducks. The Hurley Conklin Award for living the baymen's way of life is richly deserved by Heinrichs who gives all the credit to his Savior.



Terry McNulty: 2026 Conklin Awardee

By Pat Johnson

At age 85, Terry McNulty is still an avid duck hunter though this coming season he will have a friend with him rather than conquer the elements alone. McNulty has recently found a retriever that he is training and almost every day he takes his dog to Peck's Bay. He has two workshops in his Egg Harbor home —a carving shop in the garage where he also stores his duck boat and an office for painting his decorative and hunting decoys. His wife of 64 years, Peggy, has always been supportive of his work. "Every day I still go down to the river. When I come home for coffee, she asks, 'Well, is it still there?'"

McNulty was raised in Riverside, New Jersey and no one in his immediate family hunted or were outdoorsman, he said. But as a boy he was always outside, mucking about on the Delaware River and Rancocas Creek. He learned to hunt ducks with his boyhood friends. "When I was 15 I had to learn to hunt. My first gun was an Ithaca pump (shotgun) and I remember my first duck, a drake mallard and I stood there with my mouth open, watching it fall.

"I started carving because I needed a decoy rig. I gathered a bunch of old decoys and started fixing them up–painting them and repairing necks and bills. Eventually I went to the next level. I started carving cork decoys in the 1960s—a half dozen at a time, mostly black ducks. By the 70s I figured it was time to go to wood. I carve hollow decoys in traditional Barnegat Bay and Delaware River styles, ones you can actually hunt over."

McNulty was one of the last Delaware River "scullers." He liked to scull close to the riverbank using his long-handled traditional scull oar and "push-poles" to literally push or propel the boat forward. And he never goes hunting in winter without his long-handled ice hook.

He no longer has the scull but he treasures his Barnegat Bay, feathered-edge sneakbox that is over 50 years old. "My parents took a picture of me when I was five or six years old standing on a sailing sneakbox on Long Beach Island. There must have been something in that boat that went all through my system."

The fact that he has hunted all his life has contributed to the lifelike quality of his carvings. McNulty has won numerous awards for his decoys starting with the Ward Foundation Show in Maryland, Ohio Decoy Carvers and Collectors Show, US Nationals Long Island Show and the Clayton, New Jersey Decoy show.

Above: McNulty at his workshop. Photo Credit: Pat Johnson.

He entered his first show at the Ward Foundation in Salisbury, Maryland and won a third place in the decorative category. "I thought, 'Wow but I can do better.'"

"Two years later I entered a hen mallard. Out of 15 in the tank I came in 7th and had my heart broken. I asked the judge–Paul Verdet what I might do better. He said I did a great job on the eyes and then he proceeded to 'take an ax and chopped it up in little pieces.' I thought I would never enter another contest until I know what I'm doing."

"Then in 1976 I felt more comfortable and went to the U.S. Nationals on Long Island and won Best in Show for my pintail. That was the beginning when I started making decorative decoys and started competing. I went back to Maryland and won Best Puddle Duck in Decorative. And in 1985 I won Best in World Hunting Decoy. I got more and more involved in decorative but I get more enjoyment making hunting decoys. A fancy bird is nice but it just sits on a shelf."



McNulty Pintails. Photo Credit: Pat Johnson.



McNulty Swan. Photo Credit: Pat Johnson.

For years he entered in shows all over the country—and won Best in Show in north and south California, in Clayton, New York and the Ward Foundation among others.

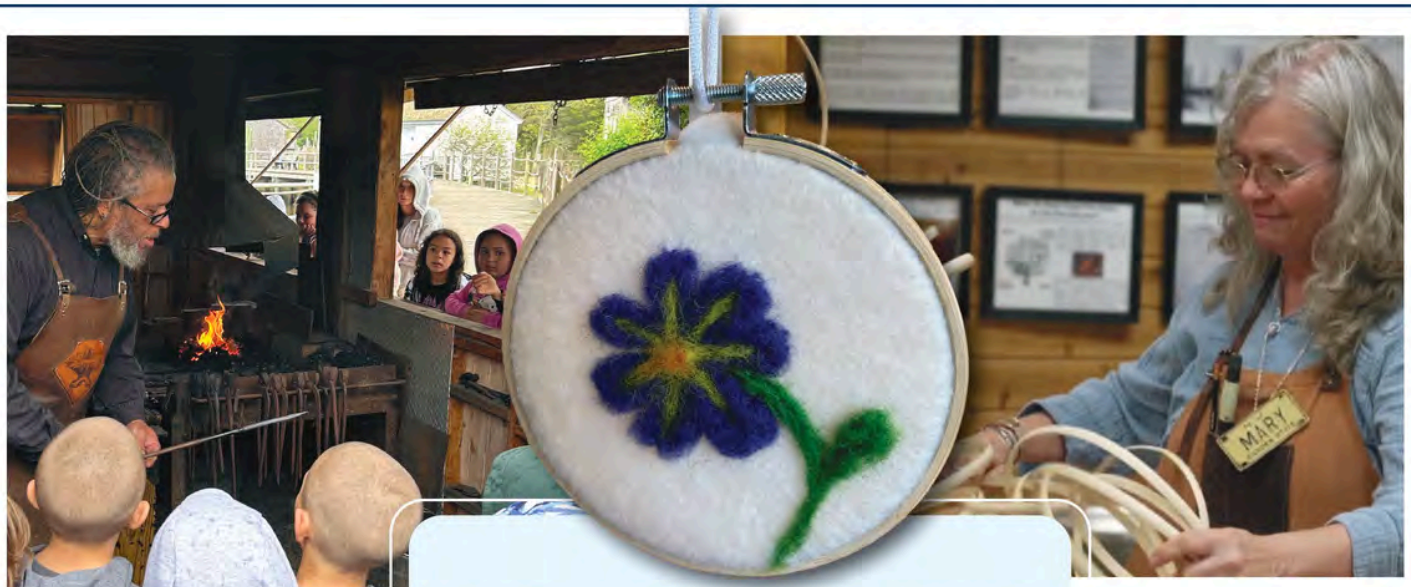
"My tendency is to try and recreate a real duck. That's what I love and I'm told to do what you love."

When he hunted in Brigantine, he used to sell his decoys right out of his boat to other hunters.

He started teaching others to carve from a shop in his trucking company in Riverside. "Two fellows got really good- Caleb Mater and Horace Jennings," said McNulty.

McNulty also volunteered at the Tuckerton Seaport and did carving demonstrations in the Jay Parker carving shop. He enjoyed demonstrating for the public and one year he carved a life-size swan that kept folks coming back to watch his progress.

McNulty declared, "I love everything about duck hunting, the decoys, the boats, the guns.. I hunt over hand-carved decoys and I collect some. I put them on a shelf and on days I can't get out, I sit in my lounge chair and pick a decoy or two and think about that duck bouncing on the bay or river."



JERSEY SHORE FOLKLIFE CENTER

Did you know Tuckerton Seaport is home to the Jersey Shore Folklife Center?

The Folklife Center offers hands-on classes amplifying coastal culture including basket weaving, felting, decoy carving, candle making, foodways, blacksmithing, woodburning and more all year long.











TUCKERTON SEAPORT · 120 West Main Street, Tuckerton · TuckertonSeaport.org

Joe Smith and Stanley H. "Bud" Seaman

2026 Hall of Fame Awardees

By Pat Johnson

This is the third year for the Michael T. Mangum Hall of Fame Award, given to the people who contributed to the creation and success of the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy and Gunning Show. This year's awards are being given posthumously to Stanley "Bud" Seaman and Joe Smith.

Joe Smith was the Park Manager of Tip Seaman County Park from when it was Tuckerton Lake County Park before the County named it after Bud Seaman's Father, Stanley H. "Tip" Seaman. Mangum remembers the early days of the Decoy and Gunning Show, "The New Jersey Decoy Collectors Association predated the Decoy show; they approached Smith and Mangum with the idea of having a tailgate picnic and decoy swap, sale and buy affair at the park. After discussion, probably at Tips Hardware, it was decided to make it a decoy and gunning show.



Stanley H. "Bud" Seaman

Bud Seaman was the proprietor of Tips Hardware in West Creek along with and after his father Tip passed away. The hardware store was the unofficial meeting place for area baymen and local residents said Mike Mangum, retired director of the Ocean County Parks and Recreation Department and local resident. "It was an old school hardware store with everything you needed for going out in the bay—boat hardware and paint and clam rakes. If he didn't have it, he was famous for saying, 'I'll have it for you Tuesday,' but he never said which Tuesday! That was a running joke." Ocean County Commissioner and former longtime Little Egg Harbor Republican committee member Ray Gormley, was brought up in Parkertown, just down the road from Tips Hardware in West Creek. While he didn't know Joe Smith, Commissioner Gormley has fond memories of Stanley "Bud" Seaman and of his father Stanley "Tip" Seaman. Tip Seaman and Commissioner Gormley's father, James "Jim" Gormley, were good friends and worked together for the benefit of Little Egg Harbor, said Commissioner Gormley. His father Jim was a Little Egg Harbor Committeeman for many years while Tip Seaman was an Ocean County Freeholder.



Mangum (L) with Joe Smith (R).
Photo courtesy of Mike Mangum

Commissioner Gormley's first memories of Bud and Tip were visiting the hardware store in summer, where every kid would get a free soda. "They had one of those old-fashioned Coke machines with the glass bottles. It was great. I always looked forward to it." The store was a gathering place for locals—coffee and donuts for the

grownups. “I don’t think they made much money, I think they just liked to be around people,” said Gormley. “They were both kind-hearted, very special people.”

“Buddy had a great collection of decoys—some of the best, early decoys. That’s how he knew so many folks to invite to the show (Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy and Gunning Show). And here’s something not many people know, Buddy’s second passion was he had a semi-pro softball team—Tips Hardware Softball. They played around the state and parts of the country. I played on the secondary team—Bert Beebe’s Kids. We were the younger guys and Bud would pitch for us! He loved to pitch.”

“Both Bud and Joe were instrumental in getting the show together,” said Mangum. “Through his connections, Bud knew the names of collectors and vendors important to the show. He was also always making up show hats and shirts and giving them to the show and he would donate prizes for the contests.”

You might say he was the heart and soul of the show.”

“Joe Smith was great with getting things done. The first year we had great weather for the show but year two we had a nor’easter. The Tuckerton Library Association wanted to set up in the park and Joe knew the retired general of the (New Jersey) National Guard and he was allowed to get a tent from the armory that used to be on Route 9. Well, we go to get it and it’s a World War Two vintage tent. We were setting that thing up in the pouring rain and wind.” Joe also promoted the show all over the state, said Mangum, putting posters in rest areas on the parkway and in sporting goods stores.

“I’m glad Bud Seaman is getting the award,” said Commissioner Gormley, “If you didn’t know him, you missed a great person.” Mangum emphasized the statement, adding Bud Seaman and Joe Smith really made the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show what it was in those early years.









CARVING OUT HISTORY

Tuckerton Seaport is home to folklife traditions.

Folklife does not happen somewhere else.

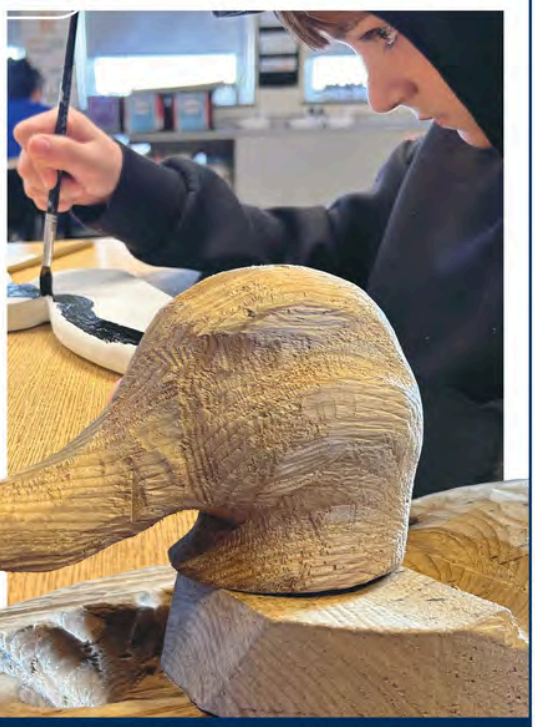
It happens right here in South Jersey.











YOUTH CARVING WORKSHOPS

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Free Program Open to Young Learners Ages 12-17

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Join Us!
Upcoming Folklife Programs:

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS.
Call ahead for descriptions and important information.

Cattus Island County Park
1170 Cattus Island Blvd,
Toms River, 08753
(732) 270-6960
www.oceancountyparks.org

A History of Whaling
Friday, October 9; 5:00 - 6:15 pm
$5.00 per person AGE: 12 years – Adult

Ghost Forests of Cattus Island
Thursday, October 22; 3:00 – 4:30 pm
$5.00 per person AGE: 6 years – Adult

Winged Wildlife: Turkeys
Thursday, November 5; 1:00 – 2:00 pm
$5.00 per person AGE: 6 years – Adult

Game Fish of the Barnegat Bay
Friday, November 6; 1:00 - 2:00 pm
$5.00 per person AGE: 6 years – Adult

Pine Barrens Herpetology (Reptiles & Amphibians)
Thursday, November 12; 5:30 - 7:00 pm
$5.00 per person AGE: 10yrs– Adult

Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site
200 Old Halfway Road,
Barnegat, 08005
(732) 929-4769
www.oceancountyparks.org

Create Your Own Walking Stick
Sunday, September 20; 12:00 - 3:00 pm
Sunday, October 11; 12:00 - 3:00 pm
$5 registration fee + $30 in exact cash or check payable to Brad Koller
AGE: 8 – Adult

Gratitude Painting
Sunday, Nov 22; 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
$5 per person AGE: 7 year to any

From Hearth & Home to the Battle: Black Colonial Life
Sunday, October 4; 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
$5 per person AGE: All

Charcoal Ink Making
Sat, October 10; 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Thurs, Nov 12; 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
$7 per person AGE: 10yrs - adult

Spooky Story time: The Legend of the Jersey Devil
Sunday, October 18; 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
$5 per person AGE: 7 years – 10 years

How to Hunt The Jersey Devil!
Sunday, October 25; 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
$5 per person AGE: All

Make Your Own Magic Wand!
Sunday, October 25; 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm
$5 registration fee + $30 in exact cash or check payable to Brad Koller
AGE: 8 years - Adult

Make Lenape Jackstraw Game!
Sunday, Nov 15; 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
$5 per person AGE: 5 and up

Handmade Wall Hanging
Sunday, Dec 13; 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
$5 per person AGE: 10 – 13 years

Kids Fish Decoy Painting
Monday, Dec 28; 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
$5 per person AGE: 4-10yrs

Cloverdale Farm County Park
34 Cloverdale Road, Barnegat, 08005
(609) 607-1861
www.oceancountyparks.org

Monthly Bird Walks
Saturdays, October 3; 8:00 - 9:30 am
November 14; 9:00 - 10:30 am
December 12; 9:00 - 10:30 am
Free AGE: 9 years - Adult

Armchair Birding
Saturdays, October 3; 9:30 - 10:30 am
November 14 10:30 - 11:30 am
December 12 10:30 - 11:30 am
Free AGE: 9 years - Adult

Family Bird Walk
Sundays, October 4; 8:00 - 9:00 am
November 8; 9:00 - 10:00 am
December 13; 9:00 - 10:00 am
Free AGE: All

Nature Photography
Sundays, October 11; 8:30 - 9:30 am
November 15; 8:30 - 9:30 am
Free AGE: 12 years - Adult

Calling All Artists! Plein Air Weekend
Fri, Oct 2-Sun, Oct 4; 8:00 am-5:30 pm
Fri, Nov 6-Sun, Nov 8; 8:00 am-4:30 pm
Free AGE: All; children must be accompanied by adult
Free AGE: All



REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS.
Call ahead for descriptions and important information.

Cranberry Ramble & Pick
Saturday, October 3; 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Sunday, October 4; 10:00 - 11:00 am
Sunday, October 11; 2:00 - 3:00 pm
FEE: $6.00 per person AGE: All

Holiday Stained Glass Ornaments
Friday, November 20;
9:00 am -12:00 pm....Santa Ornament
1:00 -4:00 pm.....Tree Ornament
FEE: $5.00 per person registration + $60 in exact change for the instructor and materials. AGE: Adult

Wool Pine Tree
Wed, Dec 2; 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
$5.00 per person registration + $55 in exact change to cover instructor fees and material costs. AGE: Adult

South Jersey Basket Making with Mary May

Carry-It-All Basket
Friday, October 30; 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
$5.00 per person registration fee + $95.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials. AGE: Adult

Christmas Bell Ornament
Friday, December 11; 1:00 - 4:00 pm
$5.00 per person registration fee + $35.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials. AGE: 15 years - Adult

Scandinavian Snowflake-22 inches
Saturday, Dec 12; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
$5.00 per person registration fee + $40.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials. AGE: Adult



Ocean County Parks Administration
1198 Bandon Road, Toms River, 08753
(732) 506-9090
oceancountyparks.org

Adult Drawing & Painting
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
Thurs, Oct 8 – Nov 12; 1:00 - 2:30 pm
$70.00 per person AGE: Adult

Stanley H. "Tip" Seaman County Park
120 Lakeside Dr, Tuckerton, NJ 08087
(609) 296 - 5606
oceancountyparks.org

Paint along Gourd Ornaments
LOCATION: Community Center, Stanley "Tip" Seaman County Park
Sun, Nov 8; 10:00 pm - 2:00 pm
$5 per person AGE: 16 to Adults

Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum
120 W Main St, Tuckerton, NJ 08087
(609) 296-8868
www.tuckertonseaport.org

Decoy Carving with Jode Hillman
Sunday, October 4 & 11; 9:30 am - 5 pm
$301.85 - $301.85 including fees
Some prior experience is required.

Glove Basket with Niki Giberson
Saturday November 7; 10:00 am
$46.85 - $46.85 including fees

Felted Pumpkin with Niki Giberson
Saturday, October 10; 10:00 am
$34.35 - $34.35 including fees

Sunset Sail
Sunday October 25; 4:30-6:30 pm
$30 per person /$25 for Seaport members

Woven Christmas Tree with Niki Giberson
Saturday December 19; 2:00 pm-4 PM
$46.85 - $46.85 including fees

Wells Mills County Park
905 Wells Mills Rd, Waretown, 08758
(609) 971-3085
oceancountyparks.org

Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center
PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills
Friday, December 4; 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
$14.00 per person / Additional costs are approximately $12 adults, $11 seniors (62+) for admission to the museum. AGE: 9 years – Adult

Wildlife & Witchery
Wednesday, October 21; 5:00 – 6:00 pm
Thursday, October 22; 2:30 – 3:30 pm
$5.00 per person AGE: 13 years – Adult

Pelican and Waterfowl Boat and Van Trip
PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills
Wednesday, October 14; 8:30 am – 3:30 pm
$14.00 per person + additional charge of $30.00 for the boat tour. Please bring exact change. AGE: 9 years – Adult

Cemetery Birding
PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills
Tuesday, October 27; 8:30 am – 3:30 pm
$14.00 per person AGE: 9 years –Adult

Early Winter Birds: Barnegat Lighthouse State Park & Edwin B. Forsythe Wildlife Refuge
PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills
Thursday, December 17; 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
$14.00 per person AGE: 9 years – Adults

1808 Trail
PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills
Sunday, December 20; 8:30 am – 2:00 pm
$12.00 per adult/ $8.00 per child (ages 9-16)
AGE: 9 years – Adult

Batsto Jaunt
PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills
Friday, December 18;9:00 am – 2:00 pm
$8.00 per adult/ $6.00 per child (ages 9-16)
AGE: 9 years – Adult

OCEAN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION PRESENTS
44TH ANNUAL OLD TIME BARNEGAT BAY DECOY SHOW



{ages 18+}

ART & PHOTO CONTESTS



DATE OF CONTEST:
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2026; 11 AM
DROP OFF YOUR ENTRIES:
FRIDAY, SEPT. 25, 5 PM-7 PM
SATURDAY, SEPT. 26, 7 AM-10 AM
ALL ARTWORK MUST BE ENTERED IN THE CONTEST BY SATURDAY AT 10 AM.
PLACE:
@ STANLEY H. "TIP" SEAMAN
COUNTY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
120 LAKESIDE DRIVE(ROUTE 9)
TUCKERTON, NJ

SCAN THE QR CODES BELOW WITH YOUR CAMERA TO ACCESS THE:

CONTEST RULES

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: OCEANCOUNTYPARKS.ORG
OR CALL: (732) 929-5944 FOR MORE INFORMATION

PRIZES!

A PLAQUE & A GIFT CARD FOR $200 TO AN ART SUPPLY STORE FOR BEST IN SHOW ART!

FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD PLACE RIBBONS WILL BE GIVEN IN ALL MEDIUM DIVISIONS

PLUS

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MARY JANE BAVAIS, DIRECTOR

Funded by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners in part from a Grant by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

OCEAN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION PRESENTS
44TH ANNUAL OLD TIME BARNEGAT BAY DECOY SHOW

youth ART & PHOTO CONTESTS



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COUNTY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
120 LAKESIDE DRIVE(ROUTE 9)
TUCKERTON, NJ

SCAN THE QR CODES BELOW WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA TO ACCESS THE:

CONTEST RULES

REGISTRATION FORM

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OR CALL: (732) 929-5944 FOR MORE INFORMATION

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11-13 YRS OLD ART DIVISION FIRST PLACE RECEIVES A GIFT CARD TO AN ART SUPPLY STORE FOR $75!

14-17 YRS OLD ART DIVISION FIRST PLACE RECEIVES A PLAQUE & A GIFT CARD TO AN ART SUPPLY STORE FOR $75!

10-17 YRS OLD PHOTO DIVISION FIRST PLACE RECEIVES A PLAQUE & A GIFT CARD TO AN ART SUPPLY STORE FOR $75!

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NEW JERSEY DU WATERFOWL PARTY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

DOORS OPEN 5PM – DINNER STARTS 6PM

THE RED MEN LODGE

143 MAIN STREET, TUCKERTON, NJ

DON'T HAVE TO MOVE YOUR CAR OR GO ANYWHERE!

EVENT IS ADJACENT TO THE BARNEGAT BAY DECOY & GUNNING SHOW

ALL YOU CAN EAT – BEER & SODA

EXCLUSIVE DU ITEMS, HUNTING GEAR, TRIPS, ARTWORK, AND OF COURSE DECOYS!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

DON'T FORGET TO STOP BY THE DUCKS UNLIMITED TENT AT THE BARNEGAT BAY DECOY SHOW ALL WEEKEND

TO PURCHASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO...

HTTPS://DUCKSUNLIMITED.MYEVENTSCENTER.COM/EVENT/119720

2026 PLAQUE SPONSORS

If you or your business would like to sponsor a plaque in 2027, please contact Wells Mills County Park at 609-971-3085

CLARENCE & LINDA FENNIMORE
Youth Gunning Decoy Contest - Ages 15 to 17

BRADEN CHIROPRACTIC CENTER
517 Hollywood Ave, Toms River NJ 08753
732-341-4900
Retriever Contest – Novice
Contemporary Gunning Decoy Contest
Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Rig Contest

IN MEMORY OF W. FRED REITMEYER, JR.
Best Overall Model Boat

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW HAMMELL
Youth Barnegat Bay Open Duck Calling Contest

MALCOLM J. ROBINSON JR.
Harry V. Shourds: Harry Mitchell Shourds Heritage Award

MARK FORD
Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Contest-Traditional

NEW JERSEY DECOY COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
https://njdecoycollectors.com
Bird of the Year - Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Contest - Traditional
Delaware River Gunning Decoy Contest

NEW JERSEY WATERFOWLERS
www.njwa.org
State of New Jersey Duck Calling Championship

RENEE'S ULTIMATE PET SITTING SERVICES
609-335-3663
Retriever Contest - Puppy

SEA PIRATE CAMPGROUND
148 Main St., West Creek, NJ 08092
609-296-7400
https://sea-pirate.com
World Championship Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox

SEAPORT CARVING CLUB
www.tuckertonseaport.org/jersey-shore-folklife-center/programs/
Antiqued Shorebird Decoy Contest

TUCKERTON SEAPORT & BAYMEN'S MUSEUM
120 West Main St., Tuckerton, NJ 08087
609-296-8868
Youth Gunning Decoy Contest Ages 14 & Under

WOOD FUNERAL HOME
134 E. Main St., Tuckerton, NJ 08087
609-296-2414
Antique South Jersey Gunning Boat Restoration Contest

OCEAN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION
The remainder of contest plaques and the following awards:

- Terry McNulty: Hurley Conklin Award
- Anthony Hillman: Hurley Conklin Award
- Joan Seibert: Hurley Conklin Award
- Herb Heinrich: Hurley Conklin Award
- Hurley Conklin: Harry Mitchell Shourds Heritage Award
- Jim Seibert: Harry Mitchell Shourds Heritage Award
- Joe Smith: Michael T. Mangum Hall of Fame Award
- Stanley H. "Bud" Seaman: Michael T. Mangum Hall of Fame Award



Thank You!

The Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation and the Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum express our deep appreciation for all groups, businesses, and individuals whose effort and support make this show possible.

Show Program Committee

Mary Jane Bavais, Tim Hart, Catherine McLearen, Alexandra Smith, Samantha Stokes Amanda Truhan, Megan Zorns

Show Committee Volunteers

Gary Bell • Bob Fricke • J.P. Hand • Tom Gormley
Ron "Poss" Hammell • Grove Conrad
Dick Jessen • George Kurtz • Nancee Jo Luciani
Malcolm Robinson • Andrew Tonneson
Jim Thompson • Steve Tarnow
Mike Mangum

Special Thanks

We thank the many volunteers who helped in making the 2026 Decoy Show a success. A show of this magnitude would not be possible without the dedicated help of these individuals. A sincere thank you to the Ocean County Sheriff's Office, Ocean County Transportation (Ocean Ride) and the Ocean County Security Department.

A special thanks to the following vendors who donated materials for the show:

Ed McCay of McCay Wood Products
Nesco, NJ (609) 204-7680
For donating the wood for the head whittling blanks.

2026 Prize Donors Retriever Contest Prizes Donated by

Ocean County Parks & Recreation

World Championship Duck Calling Contest

A special thanks to New Jersey Waterfowlers for sponsoring the 2026 New Jersey State Duck Calling Championship's participation in the 2026 World Championship at Stuttgart, Arkansas, in November

On the Cover:

2026 Decoy Show Artwork depicting Pintails over Oyster Creek Restaurant and Boat Bar by Anthony Hillman



Join Us Next Year For The 2027 Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show September 25 & 26, 2027 Tuckerton, NJ

Stanley H. "Tip" Seaman County Park

120 Lakeside Drive (Route 9)
Tuckerton, NJ 08087
(609) 296-5606

Ocean County Board of Commissioners

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Frank Sadeghi

Ocean County Parks and Recreation

Mary Jane Bavais, Director of Parks and Recreation
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