

FREE ADMISSION FREE SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

Free Parking: See Pages 6 & 7

42nd ANNUAL

OLD TIME BARNEGAT BAY DECOY & GUNNING SHOW

in Historic Tuckerton



DOCK DOGS ARE BACK

September 28 & 29

Saturday 7am - 5pm

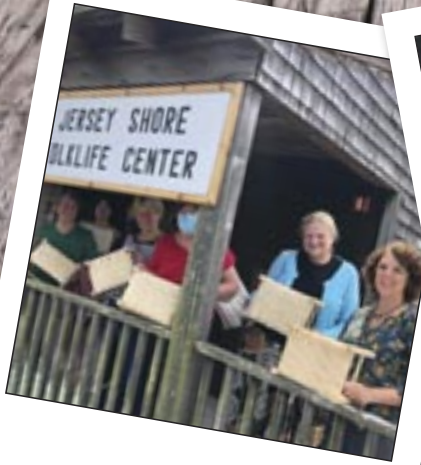
Sunday 7am - 4pm

**Over 300 Waterfowling
Exhibitors & Vendors**



Hunting Supplies, Contests, Music, Family Activities
Food, Collectible Decoys, Demonstrations and More

Stanley "TIP" Seaman County Park & Tuckerton Seaport
(609) 971-3085 www.oceancountyparks.org



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

One of Only Five Folklife Centers in NJ

Experience Folk Art at Tuckerton Seaport Heritage Tent

Meet tradition-bearing artists from the Jersey Shore Folklife Center in the Tuckerton Seaport Heritage Tent at Tip Seaman County Park, then stop by the Tuckerton Seaport to visit the new exhibits in the Tucker's Island Lighthouse and Hunting Shanty.



Free Admission All Weekend At The Tuckerton Seaport

THE TUCKERTON SEAPORT
120 West Main St., Tuckerton
TuckertonSeaport.org

Welcome!

TO THE 42ND OLD TIME BARNEGAT BAY DECOY & GUNNING SHOW

RETURNING FOR 2024!
~ Delaware Dock Dogs Are Back ~

The Ocean County Board of Commissioners and the Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation welcomes you to the **2024 Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show**.

Ocean County Parks & Recreation is happy to sponsor and welcome the Delmarva Dock Dogs back to our show! The Dock Dogs were a part of our show for nine years (2011-2019), previously sponsored by the Tuckerton Seaport and Baymen's Museum.

DON'T MISS BOTH LOCATIONS

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.

For music lovers, Jackson Pines will grace us with their musical talents.

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 **43rd 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 27 & 28, 2025!**

AT THE SHOW

Contests

Skeet Shooting, Duck Calling, Retrieving and Decoy Carving, Art and Photo

Exhibitors

Decoys, Boat Builders, Wildlife Art, Antiques, Sportsmen's Supplies

Music

Music of the Pine Barrens

Food

Tastes of the Bay, Burgers, Chicken & a Whole Lot More!

Retrievers

Watch the dog and puppy retriever contests!

GUIDE TO THE SHOW

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**DIRECTIONS TO THE SHOW
MAP ON PAGES 6 & 7**



**The 42nd Annual Old Time
Barnegat Bay Decoy
& Gunning Show**
Sponsored by:

Ocean County Board of Commissioners
Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation
Director of Parks & Recreation, Mary Jane Bavais

In cooperation with: Tuckerton Seaport
New Jersey Waterfowlers
Pinelands Regional School District

CONTEST SCHEDULE

**NOTE: All contest entries must be checked in at event site by 10:00 AM the day of the contest.
*See show program for exact schedule.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- Preliminary Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox
- Women's Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox
- Youth Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox
- Retriever Contest - Puppy
- Retriever Contest - Novice
- Preliminary Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox

SKEET/DOG AREA

7:00 AM - 10:30 AM
10:30 AM
11:00 AM
12:30 PM
1:30 PM
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

DECOY TENT

- Traditional Shorebird Rig Contest
- Delaware River Gunning Decoy Contest
- Contemporary Gunning Decoy Contest
- Youth Shorebird Contest
- Youth Decoy Contests
- Shorebird Decoy Contests (Decorative Slick & Traditional)
- Miniature Decoy Contests
- Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Contest - Traditional

10:30 AM
11:00 AM
12:00 PM
12:00 PM
12:30 PM
1:00 PM
1:30 PM
2:00 PM

PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

- Art & Photo Contests
- Decorative Contests

11:00 AM
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 29

- Preliminary Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox
- World Championship Skeetshoot Finals
- Retriever Contest - Advanced

SKEET/DOG AREA

7:00 AM - 11:00 AM
11:30 AM
1:00 PM

DECOY TENT

- Working Fish Decoy Contest
- Delaware River Gunning Decoy Rig Contest
- Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Rig Contest
- Cork Gunning Decoy Contest
- Head Whittling Contest
- Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Contest - Contemporary
- Contemporary Antique Decoy Contest

8:30 AM
9:00 AM
9:30 AM
10:00 AM
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
11:00 AM
12:00 PM

PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

- Model Boat Contest

10:00 AM

PARK ATHLETIC FIELD

- Archery Contest - Youth
- Archery Contest - Adult

10:30 AM
11:30 AM

STAGE

- Duck & Goose Calling Contests - Youth
- Awards Ceremony & Conklin Presentation

10:00 AM
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Demonstration & Activity Schedule

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Carving & Craft Demonstrations
Tuckerton Creek Boat Rides

TIME

All Day
9:00, 10:00, 11:00
1:00, 2:00, 3:00

LOCATION

Heritage Tent Park
Tuckerton Seaport

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Carving & Craft Demonstrations
Tuckerton Creek Boat Rides

TIME

All Day
9:00, 10:00, 11:00
1:00, 2:00, 3:00

LOCATION

Heritage Tent Park
Tuckerton Seaport

Music by The Pines

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Jackson Pines
Basement Musicians Guild

TIME

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

LOCATION

Park
Park

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Gary Struncius and Debbie Lawton
Basement Musicians Guild

TIME

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

LOCATION

Park
Park

* Times and events subject to change without notice*



2024 Plaque Sponsors

Please support our sponsors who have graciously provided the following plaques

CLARENCE & LINDA FENNIMORE

Youth Gunning Decoy Contest
Ages 15 to 17

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW HAMMELL

Youth Barnegat Bay Open Duck Calling Contest

KEVIN HAMMELL DECOYS

Youth Shorebird Decoy Contest -
Ages 17 & Under

MARK FORD

Bird of the Year - Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Contest - Traditional

NEW JERSEY DECOY COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

<https://njdecoycollectors.com>

Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Contest - Traditional
Delaware River Gunning Decoy Contest

NEW JERSEY DUCKS UNLIMITED

www.ducks.org/new-jersey

W. Fred Reitmeyer, Jr. Conklin Award
Gary Driscoll Conklin Award

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 Street, West Creek, NJ
609-296-7400

World Championship Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox

SEAPORT CARVING CLUB

www.tuckertonseaport.org/jersey-shore-folklife-center/programs/

Contemporary Antique Decoy Contest

WOOD FUNERAL HOME

134 E. Main St., Tuckerton, NJ
609-296-2414

Barnegat Bay Hunters Duck Calling Championship

OCEAN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

- Archery – Waterfowl Shoot
- Women's Championship Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox
- Best Model Boat
- Barnegat Bay Feather-Edged Sneakbox Contest – Traditional
- Barnegat Bay Sneakbox Contest – Traditional Development Class
- Barnegat Bay Sneakbox Contest – Contemporary Class
- Antique South Jersey Gunning Boat Restoration Contest
- Contemporary Gunning Boat – Development Class
- South Jersey Pond Box Contest
- South Jersey Traditional Hunting & Working Boat Contest
- Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Contest - Decorative Slick
- Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Rig Contest
- Miniature Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Contest – Traditional
- Miniature Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Contest – Decorative Slick
- Miniature Delaware River Gunning Decoy Contest
- Delaware River Gunning Decoy Rig Contest
- Contemporary Gunning Decoy Contest
- Cork Gunning Decoy Contest
- Head Whittling Contest
- Traditional Shorebird Decoy Contest
- Decorative Slick Shorebird Decoy Contest
- Traditional Shorebird Rig Contest
- Working Fish Decoy Contest
- Decorative Fish Contest

- Best Decorative Bird Contest
- Retriever Contest - Novice
- Retriever Contest - Advanced
- New Jersey Goose Calling Championship - Open
- Art Contest
- Photo Contest
- Youth Gunning Decoy Contest - Ages 14 & Under
- Youth Championship Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox
- Youth Barnegat Bay Goose Calling Contest
- Youth Art Contest - Ages 11 to 13
- Youth Art Contest - Ages 14 to 17

If you or your business would like to sponsor a plaque in 2025, please contact:
Wells Mills County Park at 609-971-3085



Show Exhibitors**

- Duck Calls • Decoys • Crafts • Wildlife Art
- Kayaks & Canoes • Boats • Boat Builders
- Bird Carvings • Sportsmen's Supplies
- Antiques • Puppies • Food ... and More

Two great locations of exhibits, presentations and food - with shuttle service between both Tip Seaman Park and the Tuckerton Seaport.

TENT

- Bayshore Decoys by Robert Reitmeyer
- Cappys Handmade Custom Knives
- Dave's Workshop
- Decoy Magazine
- Dick Jessen & Kyla Decoys
- Ralston "Hop" Edwards
- Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Reserve
- Friends of Forsythe National Wildlife Reserve
- Vincent Gianetto III
- Mark Gibson Decoys and Original Paintings
- Green Beret Spray
- Rich Haines
- Brett Klaproth Wildlife Photography
- Knotts Knives by "Cousins" LLC
- Kootenai Creek Decoys
- Lucky's Bed & Biscuit
- New Jersey Lighthouse Society
- NJ Conservation Officers Association
- NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife
- NJ Ducks Unlimited
- Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation
- Reclam The Bay
- Reitmeyer Decoys
- Reitmeyer Family Carvers

- Halvor Skeie Wood Carvers
- Southern Ocean Birding Group

FOOD VENDORS

- American Legion Post 493
- Sons of American Legion
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Methodist Church
- Masonic Lodge
- New Gretna Volunteer Fire Co.
- Pinelands Youth Sports
- Ptesan-Wi Council #1
- St. Theresa's Church
- Tuckerton Library Association
- Tuckerton Seaport
- VFW 12173

OPEN FIELD

- Barnegat Bay Sportsman Club
- Barnett's Pond Boxes
- Bass Pro Shops
- Bellport Decoys
- Birdsall Decoys
- Blanchette Decoys
- David Clark Boat Builder
- Cordrey/Midgett Decoys
- Laurel Dabbs Decoys
- Codykai Calls
- Delaware River Decoys
- The Duck Guru



- Bill Ethington Decoys
- Clarence Fennimore Decoys
- Flyaway Decoys
- Mark Ford Decoys
- Four Rivers Layout Boats Company
- Steve Frazee
- Good Boy Biscuits & Bones
- William Hammarstom
- Kevin Hammell Decoys
- J.P. Hand Decoys
- Jode Hillman Decoys
- Mike Kensler - Woodburnings
- Marty Kristiansen
- Llyod & Milnes Decoys
- Gene Marshall Decoys
- McCay Wood Products
- Terry McNulty Decoys
- Navesink River Hunting Retriever Club
- New Jersey Fur Harvesters
- NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife
- NJ Forest Fire Service
- NJ Waterfowlers
- Oceanicdecoys.com
- Rich Pemberton
- Piney Tribe
- Steven Jay Sanford
- Save Barnegat Bay
- John Shores
- David Thibault Decoys
- Traditions and Trails
- Kevin Wharton Decoys

****As of
July 11, 2024**

For a complete list of vendors, please pick one up at the Front Gate.

42nd Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show

Don't Miss Both Locations
Tip Seaman County Park • Tuckerton Seaport

For Information
Call 609-971-3085



● BUS STOP

Pinelands High School



FRAZIER ROAD

WILDCAT LANE

BELOFF DRIVE

NUGENTOWN ROAD (4TH AVENUE)

GIFFORDTOWN LANE

Shuttle Buses Run
From 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM
Last Shuttle 5:00 PM



BOGS



TO SCHOOLS



Ocean Ride

Once you find a parking place at the schools, Seaport or Freedom Fields County Park there will be no need to move your car to other locations.

SHUTTLE BUSES will be making trips on a regular route at all four shuttle pickups on both days.

SHUTTLE PICKUPS

- FREEDOM FIELDS, ROUTE 539
- TIP SEAMAN COUNTY PARK
- TUCKERTON SEAPORT
- PINELANDS HIGH SCHOOL

--- • SHUTTLE BUS ROUTE

--- • SHUTTLE BUS ROUTE

STAGE ROAD

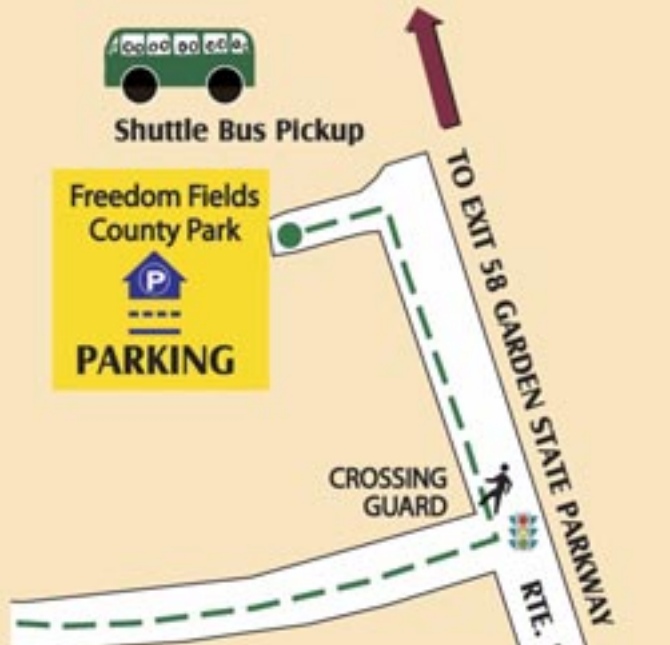
CHapel STREET

DIVISION STREET

ROUTE 9

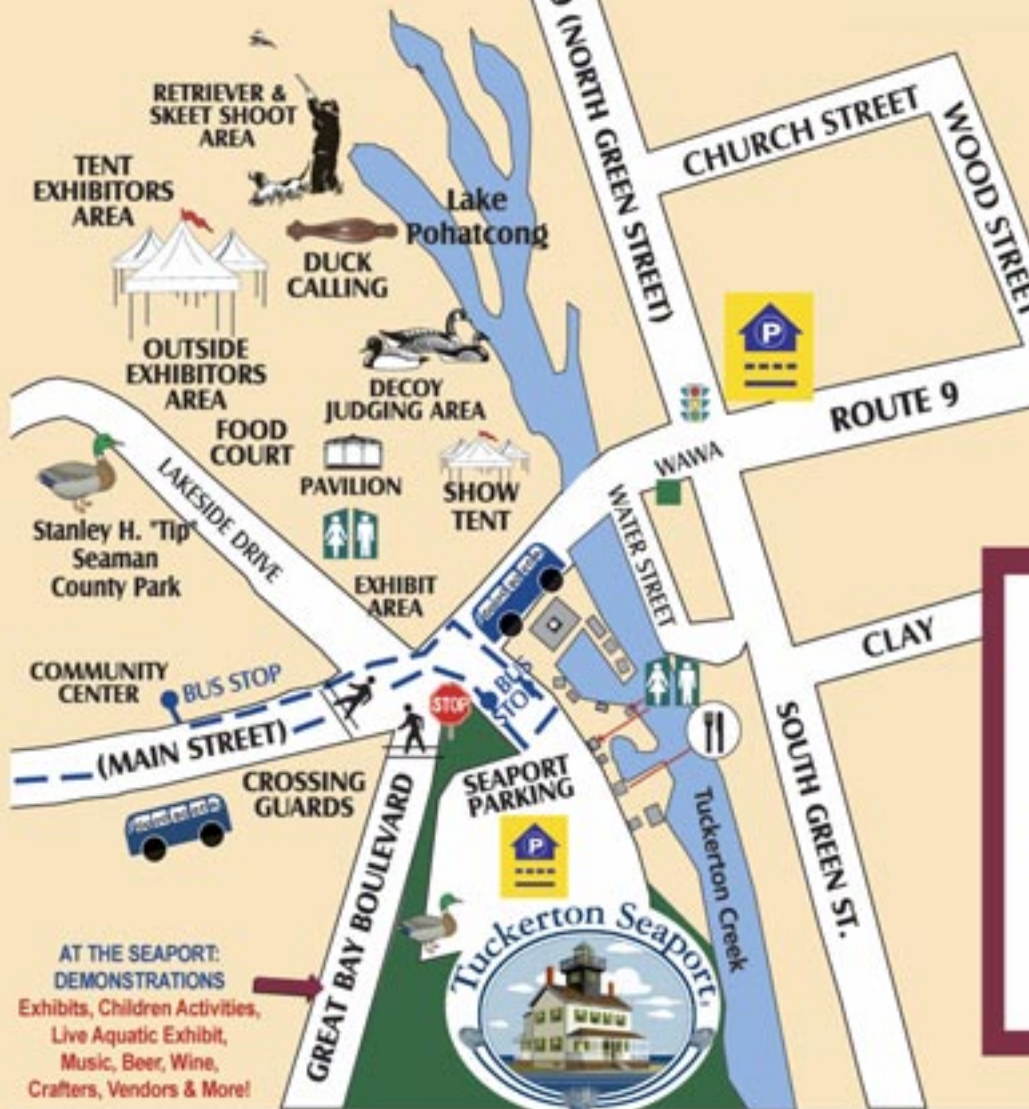
ATLANTIC BLVD./ROUTE 9





**Seaport Heritage Tent
Both Days at the Park**

**Additional
Parking at Various
Locations Downtown
Tuckerton**



**While At The Show
Visit The**

**Free Admission
During Show**

**AT THE SEAPORT:
DEMONSTRATIONS**
Exhibits, Children Activities,
Live Aquatic Exhibit,
Music, Beer, Wine,
Crafters, Vendors & More!

TUCKERTON SEAPORT SITE MAP

Lake Pohatcong

Yacht Club

Hunting Shanty

Captain's House
& Tea Room

Union Market

Nature Trail
Entrance

Dayton's
Sawmill

Perrine's
Boatworks

Free Admission All Weekend
At the Tuckerton Seaport



THE TUCKERTON SEAPORT

120 West Main St., Tuckerton • TuckertonSeaport.org

Stanley H. "Tip" Seaman County Park Site For The Weekend



The Blue Winged Teal

Spatula discors

By Joshua Gant



Who among outdoorsman doesn't love the Blue-winged Teal? Drake Blue-wings have an unmistakably rich blue head and white facial crescent. Speckles adorn their breast and sides. Hens have a muted grayish appearance; their body feathers are edged with light brown and their bellies are buff to gray. The front of the wing has a soft powder blue patch with a thin white strip separating it from the iridescent green speculum. You can see the same wing coloration in both of the Blue-winged Teals closest relatives found in North America, the Northern Shoveler and the Cinnamon Teal.

The name teal is a French word and was commonly used to describe the small species of Green-winged teal in Europe. When European explorers visited this country and saw a similarly small duck they just used the same term to describe them. Thus Teal became the name used for North America's smallest dabbling ducks. Although the two teal species present in our region are similar in name and size, Green-winged and Blue-winged teal are not closely related.

These small ducks can be found all across North America. They breed mainly in the prairie pothole region, but generally can have a wide breeding distribution. They have even historically bred in New Jersey. These birds arrive early in the spring, usually showing up first around mid to late March. Males leave early in the fall, usually arriving on wintering grounds by mid-August. Females follow suit with fledged young about a month later. The major food source of Blue-wings is aquatic vegetation. This changes during the weeks leading up to nesting season when a diet of protein rich aquatic invertebrates is adopted, especially by hens.

Blue-winged Teal nest on the ground in uplands near fresh water sources. Predation of eggs, young, and hens on nests is one of the main threats facing these birds on their breeding grounds. The conditions of the wetlands also plays a large role in how productive a nesting season is. After a few years of dry conditions Blue-winged Teal numbers had dropped to a 40-year low by 1990, but the population recovered within a decade, nearly doubling in number. The population currently is stable with an estimated 5.5 million individuals. With numbers like this it's no wonder this species is one of the most abundant species of duck in the United States.

28TH ANNUAL DECOY SHOW COLLECTOR'S PINS



Add To Your Collection

Each year the show highlights one species of waterfowl.

The 2024 commemorative pins feature

"Bird of the Year"

Blue Winged Teal

Spatula discors

Look for this cloisonné pin on sale at the Ocean County Parks & Recreation show booth, show gate and the Tuckerton Seaport.

For order information, call Wells Mills County Park: 609-971-3085

ONLY \$5

Decoy & Gunning Show Pins



Brant 1997
SOLD OUT



Wood Duck 1998
SOLD OUT



Bufflehead 1999
SOLD OUT



Shoveler 2000
SOLD OUT



Ruddy Duck 2001
SOLD OUT



Blue-winged Teal 2002
SOLD OUT



Hooded Merganser 2003
SOLD OUT



Mallard 2004



Scaup 2005



Green-winged Teal 2006



Labrador & Decoys 2007



Pintail 2008



Long-tailed Duck 2009



Black Duck 2010



Goldeneye 2011



Widgeon 2012



Canvasback 2013



Wood Duck 2014



Ring-necked 2015



Brant 2016



Gadwall 2017



Redhead 2018



Shoveler 2019



Bufflehead 2021



Mallard 2022
SOLD OUT



Long-tailed Duck 2023



Blue-winged Teal 2024

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.

This year's recipients:

Sponsored by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners

Gary Driscoll

Donated by New Jersey Ducks Unlimited

W. Fred Reitmeyer, Jr.

Donated by New Jersey Ducks Unlimited

Hurley Conklin Award Winners

Gary Driscoll

by Pat Johnson

Visitors to the Tuckerton Seaport and Ocean County Parks often hear about how early settlers in the area made a living by “Working the Cycle” — harvesting clams, oysters and fish from the bay in the summer and harvesting meat, pinecones and wood from the Pinelands in the winter. The impression tourists may get is that this cycle was a thing of the long-ago past but that’s not the case. Tuckerton’s Gary Driscoll worked the cycle for most of his life up through the 1990s.

2024 Hurley Conklin Award winner, Driscoll has deep roots in the area; his Grand Pop Ed Driscoll had a boat shop at the head of Tuckerton Creek. His other Grand Pop, Pat Heinrichs lived on Wood Street and worked at the fish factory on Crab Island in Great Bay for 50 years. His Grand Pop Heinrichs also built boats – garveys, and made scratch rakes and tongs for clambers and was a proficient guide for duck gunning parties.

“I remember him saying to us kids, ‘Pick a finger, any finger and put it here,’ – (Driscoll points to his head). He had #6 bird shot in his temple and another in his chest where a guy he was scouting for discharged his gun in his direction.”

Driscoll’s Great Uncle was Charles McCoy, a well-known decoy caver and duck-gunning guide from Tuckerton who sold miniature decoy carvings to the duck hunters for \$1 a piece. With all these family trades in his background, Driscoll easily followed in well-worn footsteps.

“I started decoy carving when I was duck hunting,” he said. “I made my first rig of black ducks when I was 16. I made a rig of seven. I always made a rig of seven – I don’t know why. I made a rig of diving ducks when I was 17. I made them for my own gunning purposes. I made them out of Atlantic white cedar and they are hollow inside – in the manner of Harry Shourds. I probably made 100 of them but I never sold them. Once in a while I would trade them. My second rig of black ducks I made in 1995 and I have all of them. I stopped (duck) gunning ten years ago. I don’t want to hurt anything, kill anything anymore.”

Driscoll like many young people in the 1950s-60s, got his working papers when he was 13 years old. “My parents said it was time to go out and work. I started out blueberry picking at Gene Reeder’s farm in Cedar Run every day, all summer. I would pick six or seven flats a day – a flat held 12 pints – actually 13 because Reeder would top them off. I was paid .87 a flat and would pick six or seven a day. So I would make six or seven bucks. I eventually figured I’ve got to do something better than this. So I bought a small sharpie rowboat and an 18-horse engine and started clamming in the bay. Later on my Grand Pop Heinrichs built a garvey for me.



Photo Credit: Pat Johnson

Continued on page 15

They were paying \$18 a thousand and if I caught a thousand clams, that was better than blueberry picking.”

“I started getting better at it and when I got married, we lived over top Parsons’ Seafood in an apartment. So I worked for Jack Parsons. The rent was \$75 a month and it was fun living there. I would catch mussels and clams for Jack. I’d go across the bay to Fox Burrow out by the old brick pile – site of the (first) old fish factory. They were easy to get – I’d tong for them and I could get 20 bushels at \$6 a bushel. Then I’d stop in the bay and catch 600 clams. It was a full time job and I did that for years.

“The good part about living in Tuckerton, you are five minutes to the bay and ten minutes to the Pinelands. In the summer I’d work the bay and the winter I’d be out picking pinecones, hog brush and huckleberry.”

These products were used by the florist industry and Driscoll sold them to a number of wholesalers. Driscoll harvested the pinecones during the fall and winter months when the cones were closed and are covered with stickers. “I would go through two pairs of gloves a day. Then I discovered duct tape and that made the gloves last a bit longer, almost a week.”

Folks who did this to make money would call it ‘pineballin’ and some would have a smoke house to pop the cones. Driscoll didn’t pop the cones himself. “I picked them closed and would fit a thousand to a bag. We didn’t count them but figured two five-gallon buckets heaped up was a thousand and we started at \$3 a gallon. I would work all day. There’s a knack to picking—you have to go against the grain of the wood.”

Driscoll and others would pick on the pygmy pine plains off Route 539 in Warren Grove because it was easy to reach the cones. He also picked on the (Air National Guard) bombing range and was given access because his dad (and many Tuckerton men) worked there and they knew him. “You can’t go there now – it’s tightened up. I guess since 9/11.

“Major Leek and I worked together and we could pick eight to ten thousand each. I could make \$80 a day – but it’s illegal now. I don’t get why,” he said. “I did that all winter long and there would be six to eight guys doing it. The state decided we were breaking foliage, but in my opinion, people have been doing it for 200 years. Also when it’s 10 degrees out, there’s no sap in the branches. “But that’s it – can’t do it anymore.”

Driscoll still picks a few cones when he’s out roaming the countryside and makes a limited amount of jewelry from them. By using a band saw, he cuts down the center of a cone and then lacquers the face. The split cone has a pretty flame image in the center.

Driscoll’s industriousness also meant he spent his youth and young adulthood trapping muskrats. “I made pretty good money at it in the 1970s’. I didn’t have to go far, I trapped ‘rats on the Tuckerton, Parkertown and West Creek meadows – 100 to 125 every winter. I don’t know how many are left,” he said. Muskrats favor brackish and freshwater creeks where they can eat cattails but saltwater intrusion into creeks and the abundance of phragmites (common reed) has impacted their habitat, he explained.

But back in the day they were plentiful. “I sold them both for pelts and for meat – the meat is called ‘marsh rabbit’ in stores. Depending on the size I could get \$6 to \$9 a piece. I didn’t have to skin them, I would freeze them and Henry Updike and Harry Ware would skin them and ship them to dealers. I did this during the winter up until February when the pelts were prime.”

I collect New Jersey game laws. Things that are legal now were never legal back then. We had no turkey season or Coyote. We used legs traps but now (trappers) use snare traps, which I think are more inhumane. A lot has changed. Deer hunting – we had to use buckshot – never rifle shot. Does were illegal, baiting was illegal and we had a six-day

Continued on page 16

Gary Driscoll from from page 15

firearm season. That was it. During deer season everybody took off school. Not all boys hunted but many did – eight out of ten. It was early December. There were deer clubs everywhere with 20 or 30 guys.” Driscoll said deer season now stretches an entire month with all the special seasons.

One of his favorite times of the year was small game season when he would take his beagles out for rabbit hunting on some of the old farm fields and wood lots that used to dot the area. “I had nine beagles – I started breeding them. I used to walk to Mike Witwer’s house and we would walk behind the Armory (now the NJ State Trooper barracks in Tuckerton) and the (Greenwood) Cemetery and through people’s backyards. People used to see us and say, ‘How you making out?’ They knew us and nobody cared about trespassing.

“I stopped deer and rabbit hunting fifteen years ago and duck hunting ten years ago. What ruined duck hunting for me was having ducks as pets. We had one that used to come right in the kitchen – mallards. They are so tame. I don’t eat chicken either as we had chickens.”

Gary said his brother Hubie Driscoll used to raise foxhounds and go fox hunting with them. “A fox will travel five or more miles with the dogs chasing so they did it with pickup trucks and CB radios. But you need large expanses so that’s all gone now. Someone wrote a book about it, *Chase World*.”

Driscoll’s family branch of the Cramers traces back to the 1780s. Driscolls came from County Cork, Ireland. The Heinrichs came from Germany. “My Great, Great Grandfather came from Hamburg to play in the Philharmonic Orchestra,” said Driscoll.

“My grandparents were both born and raised here (Tuckerton). My Grandmother Elsie Heinrichs had a dairy farm on Wood Street. Dawn Dairy. My Mom (also named Elsie) was one of eight children. My mom is 99 and still lives in Tuckerton.”



Photo Credit: Gary Driscoll

“We also used to go to the Columbus Auction with her and she would buy two or three calves and raise them off her cows and then sell them back for veal. We’d all cry because we were attached to them.

“Her sister, Minnie Dawson had a farm on 9 in Tuckerton where the McDonalds is now. They used to raise and slaughter pigs. She always had a revolver and a holster on her side. They were a different breed.”

Today, after retiring from the Eagleswood School district where he worked as the night janitor and met his wife Maryann – a teacher there, he spends a lot of his time in the winter months traipsing in the Pinelands, looking for deer antlers. “People don’t know that a deer sheds his antlers every year. They just fall off. I walk five to eight miles a day. Over the years I’ve found several hundred and every one is different. It’s just something I like to do. It’s nice walking in the woods.”

W. Fred Reitmeyer, Jr.

by Catherine McLearn

W. Fred Reitmeyer, Jr. has been making decoys for over 70 years and he's carving now more than ever. Reitmeyer's mastery of the trade, family heritage, and integrity have earned him unanimous respect among his peers and a boat load of ribbons, plaques, and sales. Few others have been as successful in increasing understanding of Barnegat Bay traditions. Reitmeyer's generosity of time has set him apart as a recipient of the 2024 Hurley Conklin Awardee.

Since 2000, Reitmeyer has volunteered weekly at the Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum, inviting thousands of visitors and school groups *each year* to share in his lifetime of knowledge. His success as an educator is not only measured by the astounding number of people he's taught but by the quality of those interactions with Fred.

For visitors and students who step into the Seaport - typically Mondays 10 AM - 2 PM (call ahead first) or students who come for a school tour, Fred will not only warmly welcome you into the carving shop but he'll invite you to share in his heritage. His ability to embrace those who are not familiar with the concept of the Barnegat Bay, to teach them in understandable terms, and encourage them to not be afraid to ask a question or to become involved has left countless people with a lasting, transformative impression.

Reitmeyer was born in Pleasantville, NJ in 1941 to Walter Frederick Reitmeyer, Sr. and Mary Frances Thomas. "My roots were in the pinelands. My grandmother didn't want to be called a piney, it was like a dirty word. Whereas today, being called a piney is somewhat romantic. ... I don't mind it at all... I'm very proud of my piney heritage."

Reitmeyer's family is steeped in tradition, his grandfather was the legendary boat builder Carl Adams. Around age 16, Adams began his apprenticeship at the Van Sant Boatyard in Atlantic City, a family that had been building and servicing boats in the region for generations. In fact, Reitmeyer was inducted into the Sons of the American Revolution through his relation to John Van Sant - Carl Adams' grandfather, a captain and prisoner of war during the Revolution.

As a child, Reitmeyer would drive with his grandfather to Adams' boatyard, Modern Boatworks, and helped with small tasks like sweeping the floors and minor painting. In the afternoon, he would fish and crab behind the building. Adams had been avid duck and deer hunter throughout his life but he quit duck hunting in the late 1930s when the use of "live" decoys was outlawed. But when his young grandson took an interest, Adams taught 12 year old Reitmeyer to make his first decoy out of cork. Adams had sheets of cork used as insulation in the old days and the material is easy to shape.

As he progressed to wooden ducks, Adams demonstrated his boat building influence on Reitmeyer's carving style. In the traditional Barnegat Bay method, decoy bodies are made from 2 pieces of cedar hollowed out with a drill press or gouge to make it more lightweight. It's then glued or nailed together. Adams' method involved sandwiching 3 pieces of scrap boat building wood, 1-2 inch thick cedar plank ends that would have otherwise been used as fire wood. To hollow the bird, the middle piece is cut out so it can be used to make the head. Reitmeyer doesn't know of any other carver that uses the 3 piece method but he does alternate between the two methods.

In the early 1960s, a clammer friend of Reitmeyer's father introduced him to a young artists who wanted to learn the basics of decoy carving. Reitmeyer recounted the day of his first lesson for a man who would become one of New Jersey's most illustrious carvers, Dave Rhodes.

"He came over to my grandfather's house with this piece of driftwood and a big carving knife and that's the way he was going to carve ducks. I told him about the drawknife, spoke shave, a real carving knife, and cedar. He was an artist by trade, so he was well known as an artist but not (at that time) as a decoy carver. We met a few more times and he went off on his own. We became friends."

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Photo Credit: Tuckerton Seaport

For about 30 years, they hunted and fished together. Rhodes taught Reitmeyer about raising retrieving dogs, sometimes Reitmeyer would help Rhodes (who was colorblind) select the correct paint color, and they'd share with one another whatever they knew about hunting and fishing. "So it was like a joint venture where we would share things."

Reitmeyer went on to earn his MBA from Monmouth College and work for the South Jersey Gas Company for 34 years as the manager of budgetary and financial forecasting. He retired on January 1, 2000 and by that spring he began volunteering weekly at the Tuckerton Seaport.

Reitmeyer was part of the Seaport's Jersey Traditions curriculum program, visiting schools across Ocean County. He brought flattie shorebirds into the schools so students would have a lesson in carving and could take home a souvenir. He has also been a guest carver for the Seaport's Youth Carving Club for students aged 11-17. Reitmeyer's volunteer service even includes 40 years with the Boy Scouts and instructor of the Wood Carving Merit Badge.

In 2004, Reitmeyer had the honor of participating in the Smithsonian Folk Festival in Washington, DC. It was a two week program, fellow Seaport volunteer Clarence Fennimore did the first week and Reitmeyer covered the second.

They were set up on the lawn near the White House in the "Mid-Atlantic maritime section" which featured tradition bearers from New York down to South Carolina. They set up educational demonstrations and sold their decoys, too. One of the days a severe thunderstorm came through and they had to abandon everything outside until it passed – leaving Reitmeyer to hope his birds wouldn't fly away in the storm. Fortunately, some of the Smithsonian staff who were interested in decoys and duck hunting made up for it. They took Reitmeyer and his son John on a behind the scenes tour of collection items that were not on public display.

"We put on white gloves and handled the sword of the general on the American side at the Battle of Yorktown. So it was pretty special. We helped people, but we also got helped."

For several years, Reitmeyer also participated in the Ward Museum of Waterfowl Art's program sponsoring about 15 carvers across the country to teach a student how to carve decoys their way. "Even if they were an experienced decoy carver, we still had to teach them how to carve our way." Student and teacher worked together for as long as it took to learn Reitmeyer's method.

Twice Reitmeyer worked as the master carver for the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Folk Art Apprenticeship Program, teaching decoy making to Nancee Jo Luciani and Paul Scarlett.

While Reitmeyer has dedicated countless hours teaching the public about the Barnegat Bay traditions, he has also passed those traditions onto his children and grandchildren. Fred and his wife Susan have four children; Bob, John, and Lynn are carvers and Jennifer collects. He is proud to report on his grandsons (both carvers) - Tanner has a lot of initiative to go further with hunting ducks and Bailey is a very good carver and educator.

At decoy shows, members of the Reitmeyer clan always help with Fred's table. When his grandsons were young they would get very excited after selling a decoy, exclaiming "Look! I got \$100 dollars!" Periodically, Reitmeyer holds a "family auction" where he takes four of his decoys and has his children draw numbers to make sure some of his decoys stay in the family.

Following in centuries of family tradition, Reitmeyer and his son Bob are skilled Sneakbox restorers and model Sneakbox makers. His models are made using Carl Adams' patterns. When his son Bob was in his early 20s, they heard about a Sneakbox carved by young Harry Shourds that was hanging in a garage in Ventnor. They bought the Sneakbox for about \$100. There was a shotgun hole in the bottom and pieces were missing but they were able to fiberglass the boat and get it back on the water.

They later bought and restored two sneakboxes that Carl Adams built. One was a 1960 featheredge style and the other was an unfinished 1976 slab-side duck hunting boat. The boats were sold to the Reitmeyers at a low price but they needed a lot of work.

"More recently the boat that was built in 1960 needed to be restored again. So this time Bob and my grandson Tanner took on the chance of taking off the old fiberglass and sanding the boat down to the wood and then reinstalling the fiberglass. It was quite a project."

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Fred, Bob, John, and Tanner have all earned ribbons at the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show for their carvings or boats. In fact, Fred is among the shows top contenders in most of the carving categories. In the early years, Reitmeyer only sporadically entered decoys in contests since he was still working fulltime and supporting a family. At the time, his motivation was to carve decoys to sell for extra money to “buy [his] hunting toys.”

Reitmeyer’s carving style has even changed several times over the years. At first he stuck to carving traditional working decoys, black ducks and buffleheads he hunted in Absecon Bay. Then as people began buying decoys from him, he started carving them based on his customers’ interests. At the time that meant more detail – more color, wing carving, texturing, and fat bottoms so they sit nicely on shelves. For some time he would even use stick-on felt paper on the bottom so they wouldn’t damage display shelves. But once he retired, he decided that in order to be a contender in carving competitions he would stick to the smooth Barnegat Bay style – and it’s worked. He especially appreciates the bird of the year aspect of the show since it forces him to research and carve birds that he never carved before.

As Reitmeyer notes, “It’s important in decoy carving to look at other carvers’ work. Not to copy but to benefit from their years of experience and to learn there are different things about carving and painting.”

After the many years of volunteering and teaching Reitmeyer has done so far, he hopes those he’s interacted with take away that we’re losing many hunters in New Jersey for various reasons. Decoy carving and duck hunting are very important to our heritage because it was one of the ways people helped to feed their families.” Through fishing, crabbing, clamming, and deer and duck hunting, “there was good food available without spending a lot of money. I remember my grandfather said one time he’d almost starve if he didn’t hunt or fish. That’s what I want to get people to understand... “

His son John remarked that duck hunting takes a special kind of person because “it’s too early, too cold, and too wet.” But Reitmeyer is just that kind of person, recalling, “many mornings we had to break ice in the creek... You had to be willing crawl on your hands and knees in order to stalk a black duck or bufflehead. Where I grew up, we could walk two blocks to the rail road tracks to Atlantic City....We would carry our gun over our shoulder and walk down the middle of the street.” Equally enthusiastic about deer hunting, Reitmeyer shot his first deer at age 15 at the Batsto fields and was later a charter member of the Shur Shot Gun Club of Laurel Dale. A lot of the kids that come to the Seaport have never experienced deer or duck hunting. So it (has been) our effort to enlarge their thinking about duck hunting and deer hunting and what it meant to be part of that.”



*Reitmeyer engages with students at the Tuckerton Seaport.
Photo Credit: Tuckerton Seaport*



*Mike Mangum, 1st Place Gunning Garvey.
Photo Credit: Mike Mangum*

Mike Mangum:

Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show HALL OF FAME

by Catherine McLearn

As founder and the first show coordinator of the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show, it's only fitting for Mike Mangum to receive the first Decoy Show Hall of Fame Award. In 1983 when Park Naturalist Mike Mangum and Tip Seaman Park Supervisor Joe Smith were approached by Jim Allen and Bud Seaman of the New Jersey Decoy Collectors Association about holding a buy/swap/sell tailgate at Tip Seaman Park, Mangum had a better idea. Instead of hosting an event for collectors to swap decoys, Ocean County Parks would put on a show to educate the public about the traditions of Barnegat Bay while helping to preserve them.

So they got to work with the help of other Parks staff, volunteers, non-profits, and local businesses. They put together a show committee of carvers, collectors, boat builders, baymen, and others with expertise to come up with ideas for the show and write the contest rules.

“The decoy show committee has always been really important with coming up with ideas. It wasn't just me sitting around coming up with these ideas, usually it was somebody else. It was a collaborative effort.”

There would be opportunities for craftsman and artists to sell their work, contests, demonstrations, food vendors, and educational displays and programs. While the decoy contests have given many carvers incentive to work throughout the year, Mangum is especially proud of the boat restoration contests which have helped save a lot of significant boats that were not in good condition would have otherwise deteriorated.

“I think [the Decoy Show] preserves our culture here in Ocean County. I truly believe that if we hadn't had this show going on, a lot of this stuff would have been lost.”

Even Mangum couldn't believe how well the show did in its first year and exploded in popularity from then on. By 1986, the show expanded to two days and three locations (Tip Seaman Park, Pinelands High School, and the Tuckerton first aid building). They had exhibitors from as far away as Florida, Hawaii, and even Europe. According to Mangum, the show could not have gotten as big as it has with just the core group of waterfowlers. He credits John Holloway as being a particularly instrumental in always pushing to add new aspects to the show each year to attract a wider audience.

“It wasn't just a bunch of decoys sitting on the table waiting to be judged. We wanted to make sure there were things there for everybody to be able to buy, watch, and do but that also fit within the theme of the show.”

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Photo Credit: Oakleaf Media

To help preserve Barnegat Bay heritage, educating the public was made a key component of the show. It was important to Mangum to meld in the history with modern day. To do so, the show featured demonstrations by Gary Giberson and the Noyes Museum, presentations, historic photos and stories in the show program, contests like the Waterfowling ID contest, and displays by the likes of the Toms River Seaport, Philadelphia Maritime Museum (Independence Seaport Museum), NJ Waterfowling, and Ducks Unlimited. Environmental education was also incorporated into the show from the beginning. Conservation organizations that may not be necessarily traditional supporters of hunting culture supported the show because of this mutual understanding of environmental and wildlife conservation.

To capture the enthusiasm of the beginning of the waterfowl season, the show is held on the last full weekend of September. That early fall day in the park has built the atmosphere that sets the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show apart from all other decoy shows. The show starts at 7 AM on Saturday, which means staff and the show coordinator arrive before the sun rises.

“You pull in there and it's dark, the sun is starting to come up, and there's fog that's lifting off the lake. And it's cold, it's sort of frosty. The lake looks beautiful with the sunrise or even after storm clouds. Then the guys start shooting the guns before seven and it's pretty neat. Everybody's rolling in all enthusiastic, especially Saturday morning because they're setting up. The decoy carvers are entering contests. The dogs are there barking, people are talking that haven't seen each other in a year. And, I think that's just the basic atmosphere of the show. It's pretty special.”

While other shows are held indoors, the Decoy Show is held at a park where every effort is made to mimic the feeling of being in a real hunting situation and all aspects of the waterfowling process are incorporated. Instead of skeet shooting in a field, contestants shoot from a Sneakbox just as they would when hunting on Barnegat Bay. Other contests involved rowing a Sneakbox onto the lake and setting up a rig or setting up a gunning boat as you would when hunting.

Mangum further explained that while other shows float contest birds “in a kiddie pool, we didn't really think too much of that so we said we have the lake here, we're going to use it. We're going to float the decoys in the lake and try to judge them like you were looking at them out on the bay as an actual hunting decoy and seeing how it looks.”

Adding to the atmosphere of the show has been the feeling that the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show is Tuckerton's show. In fact, Mangum worked to dispel the rumor that the show's popularity meant the County would take it out of Tuckerton and move it up to Toms River. Something the County never had any intention of doing.

“It's a home town event as much as it was a national event. A lot of people took pride in the show and put up with a lot for one weekend. Picture both sides of route 9, Great Bay Boulevard, and every side street with cars parked on it. People walking. Giant traffic jam backed up almost to Manahawkin. But most people locally were good natured about it because they took pride in the fact it was a Tuckerton thing.”

But not every aspect of being show coordinator was sunshine and rainbows... as least not the weather.

“Thank the good lord at least for one year (1983) we had good weather. After that we had many, many years of severe thunderstorms, nor'easters, tropical storms, hurricanes. You name it, we had it. The only thing we didn't have was a

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tornado. But the people at the show are resilient and over the years even with all the bad weather we were able to attract people.”

Never knowing what they would get weather-wise come September, the Decoy Show has persevered in all kinds of weather from extreme storms to 90 degree temperature to years when it has felt like the perfect fall day. In 1984, a nor'easter terrorized staff the entire set-up week including the morning of the show. The Tuckerton Armory supplied the Parks Department with a surplus WWII tent equipped with giant wooden stakes. Ocean County Library's Harvest Festival was held under the surplus tent and contests were held at the lake. All the other exhibitors were moved to the high school to shelter from the storm, but the show that year was a big success anyway.

In 1985, Hurricane Gloria postponed the show for the following weekend after wreaking havoc during set-up week. Without the convenience of text or email, staff tried to call everyone to inform them of the change. “But,” Mangum reported proudly, “we still got it done.”

One thunderstorm the night before the show even blew a tent into the lake. Another took a large aluminum framed tent and “crunched it up like someone stepping on a beer can.” But weather was fine the day of the show so the tent suppliers were there all-day beating the poles back into place. Another year under 90 mph winds, volunteer Harry Disbrow shot fishing line over the 200 ft. exhibitor tent with his bow and arrow so a ropes could be dragged over it, wound around the middle post, and fastened to anchors.

“And by God it kept the tent up.”

There were even a number of years that Mangum and long-time park staff Frank Pullen slept in the show tents with sledge hammers on hand to fight against severe winds forcing tent stakes out of the ground. In spite of all the bad weather, luckily, a team of dedicated staff and volunteers somehow always put the show back together. It helps, too, that waterfowlers aren't afraid of a little bad weather.

Mangum served as show coordinator until 1998 when he received a promotion to Recreation Director and later to Director of Parks. The role of coordinator was rewarding but could feel a lot like herding cats. Leading up to the show takes planning, planning, and more planning. A major challenge is laying out over 500 vendors and keeping them all happy.

And on the day of the show, the coordinator has a simple responsibility... putting out all the fires. That included riding around between three show locations to make sure everything was running smoothly, sorting out feuds between vendors, delivering the bad news to irrelevant vendors that they wouldn't be back, making sure everyone is doing what they're supposed to, and running around with sledge hammers to drive tent stakes back into the ground.

It also sometimes meant taking phone calls the night before the show at midnight from home. “There'd be someone yelling at me when I'm trying to go to sleep so I can get up at 4 AM to come here. Let's just say some of these people are very passionate. I won't go into names. We usually worked things out.”

But some spectacular things have also happened at the Decoy Show. Like the year Guyette & Deeter had a table with decoys going to auction. “Well, just sitting on the table was a Harry Shourds goose that was valued at like \$250,000. Just sitting there like it was a duck for \$20. That I won't forget. That was pretty impressive that they would've brought that and let it sit on their table in the middle of our show.”

At the first show, Sam Hunt was set up with his hand-crafted rustic furniture, sneakboxes, and banjos. Merce Ridgeway and some other musicians from the Pinelands Cultural Society sat in Sammy's chairs and started playing music with him, the impromptu act from these legends of Barnegat Bay started the tradition of having music at the show.

It has been fulfilling for Mangum to see some of young people who came to the show in early years as visitors progress to become today's contest champions. Incorporating youth contests was an important aspect of the show to encourage the continuation of local traditions and to inspire the creation of Malcolm Robinson's Youth Carving Club, creating a new generation of carvers.

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A former board member of the Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum, Mangum recalled how the non-profit was an outgrowth of the Decoy Show. By 1990, the generation that was young when the show started was now old enough to make an impact in preserving local history themselves. "There wouldn't be any Tuckerton Seaport without this show."

Though he doesn't brag about it, another moment of pride came when Mangum took first and second place ribbons in full size and model boat contests. "You get a sense of accomplishment because boat building is not like building a cabinet or something. There's no straight angles. It's a much more difficult process than other types of things. So you have to be pretty skilled to be able to build a boat."

Mangum retired as Parks Director on April 1, 2024 after working for the Parks Department for 46 years. He considers the Decoy Show not only to be one of his proudest accomplishments but it represents the core purpose of the Park's Department by serving the public through preservation of Ocean County's local heritage, supporting local tradition bearers, and educating the public in an enjoyable way.

Mangum hopes the Decoy Show can continue to grow long into the future. He acknowledged that connecting with the modern audience is a bigger job than it used to be. In 1960 Ocean County had a population of around 50,000 compared to the 655,735 reported in 2020. Most of the current residents or their parents were not born in the area and therefore are missing a sense of the local culture that has existed for 300 years.

"We need to try to connect with them and teach them about what made Barnegat Bay important and why these boats were important for hundreds of years. If we want to serve the current crop of people who visit the show, we need to adjust and adapt."

All in all, Mangum credits a very long list of individuals and organizations in the success of the show. "Volunteers, staff, carvers, boat builders, duck callers, volunteer organizations... There's a huge group of people make the show possible and without them we can never have the show... I think that's the biggest thing, all of these people working together... I'm proud of what we were able to accomplish... I truly believe we have preserved this for our culture, at least for the foreseeable future."



*Mike Mangum, Lillian Szatkowski-Gomez, Tish Wright, Mary Strang & Michelle Pullen - 1999.
Photo Credit: Ocean County Parks*

Hurley Conklin Award Winners

- 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.



Michael T. Mangum Hall of Fame Award

2024 is the first year for the newly recognized Michael T. Mangum Hall of Fame for the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show.

Michael T. Mangum is the first awardee and the actual award will bear his name into the future like the Hurley Conklin Award given each year for those who have lived their lives in the tradition of the Barnegat Bay.

The Hall of Fame is being created to honor those who have advanced the purpose of the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show. The awardees will be selected annually by the show committee, profiles will be included in the show program and archived on the website at <https://www.co.ocean.nj.us/culturalheritage/>. There will also be a permanent plaque on exhibit at the Tip Seaman Park Community Center. Like the Hurley Conklin Award, plaques will be awarded at the Sunday show ceremony. Unlike the Hurley Conklin Award, the Hall of Fame Award may be given posthumously. Therefore, we can hope that there will not be a so called curse of the award.

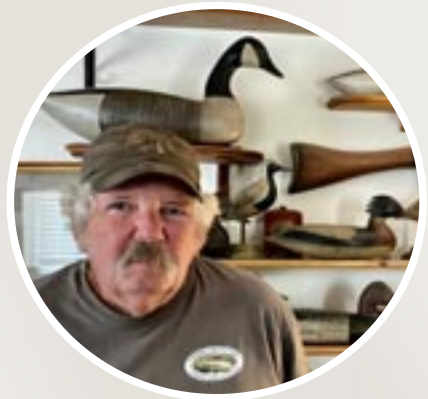
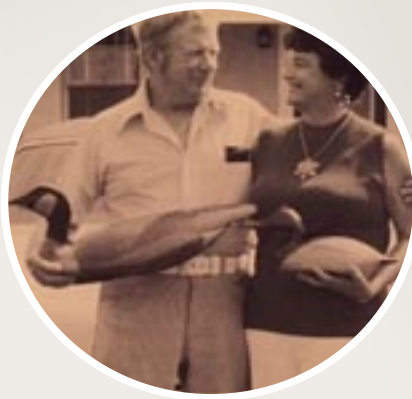
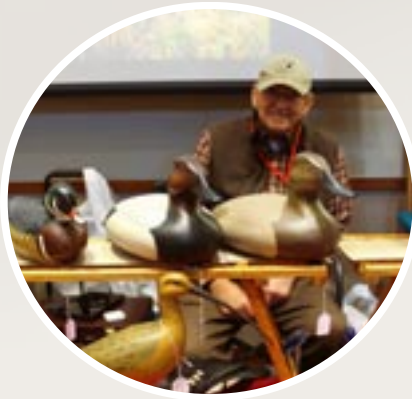
Find Decoy & Gunning Show Movies, Stories and More

The show continues to emphasize traditional waterfowling skills such as decoy carving, boat building, retrieving, shooting etc. in the most realistic manner. As part of an ongoing commitment to preserving Barnegat Bay traditions, the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission provides a series of archives containing everything from Hurley Conklin winners to Barnegat Bay documentaries. The links to these archives are listed below.

- **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 Ocean County Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show
<https://www.co.ocean.nj.us/oc/ch/frmDecoyAwardees.aspx>
- **Decoy Show Stories:** Written for the Ocean County 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/>

New Jersey Decoy Collectors Association

Hall of Fame



Established in 2006, the
New Jersey Decoy Hall of Fame members now include:

2006

William Cramer

2009

Harry V. Shourds III

2010

David Rhodes

2011

Dick Gove

Art Birdsall

2012

Bill Cordrey

Clarence Fennimore

2013

Bill Doggart

Bob White

2014

Grove Conrad

JP Hand

2015

Lawrence Pollin

Robert Seabrook

2016

Pete Butler

John Holloway

2017

Jim Allen

2018

John Hillman

(posthumous)

2024 Show Print Artist Profile



Blue Winged Teal.
Photo Credit: Kate Leigh Cutler

The 2024 Show Print was created by Bay Head artist Kate Leigh Cutler (1940-). Ms. Cutler is one of the most highly regarded maritime artists in Ocean County. Among other awards and honors, she earned the 2017 Lifetime Achievement in Ocean County Art. You can view her documentary at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ysXzc9YMmM>.

Ms. Cutler has an academic art background that includes a BFA, Magna Cum Laude from Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia among many other impressive credits. Her images of catboats, sneakboxes and other vessels of Barnegat Bay display a deep appreciation of New Jersey's rich, maritime culture and breathtaking coastal scenery. Her father was instrumental in the formal design of what has become,

with the modifications of the Beaton family, the Barnegat Bay Duck Boat.

She says of herself that “An expressive style and approach is my painting sensibility and signature. My lifelong coastal living experience has inspired me mostly through observation of the natural landscape. I mingle light and color to create emotionally charged waterscapes.” Kate Leigh Cutler has created a body of work that evokes, reflects and inspires the history, nature and culture of Ocean County.

You may contact Ms. Cutler at her Shell Studio at 55 Mount Street in Bay Head, NJ 08742 kate@kate-leighcutler.com



Lonesome Cry.
Photo Credit: Kate Leigh Cutler



Headin' Home.
Photo Credit: Kate Leigh Cutler



Photo Credit: Grove Conrad

Bob Seabrook:

The Sorcerer's Apprentice - A Forger's Spell

by Grove Conrad

If talent is inherited, Robert Elwell Seabrook's maternal great grandfather Frank X. Ferg (1867- 1950) contributed greatly to Bob's DNA. Frank Xavier Ferg's works as a woodcarver and artist were well known to Philadelphians – his work being found in the Franklin Institute and the Philadelphia Academy of Music. Among Mr. Bob Seabrook's vast collection(s) are several Ferg wood sculptures each with identifiable Ferg/Seabrook similarities.

Regardless of shared DNA, Mr. Seabrook describes himself as self-taught; his combination of sculpture, painting tones and patina make him arguably the grand-

master of the three or four folk-art replicators in the country. He accomplishes his work the old-fashioned way using only hand tools and blended paints while working in the basement studio of his home. That studio space shares his decoy workspace with his vast collection(s) of oyster tins, oyster ephemera and other implements of the Jersey oyster trade. His restoration work is historically accurate as evidenced by binders and documents of the works of long-ago craftsmen and folk artists he happens to be reconstructing.

Insofar as his own collection and collecting interests, in addition to oysters, Bob favors old-time decoy makers between Absecon and Cape May, more specifically the decoys of Harry Mitchell Shourds (1890-1943). The interest stems from his Great-grandfather Jacob Elwell's home on 56th Street in Ocean City where Bob and family visited frequently, the H.M. Shourds home just a few blocks away. Bob is a storyteller and his tales of the Life Saving Service; old-time decoys and their makers are classic and if you happen to catch Bob in a yarn spinning moment – listen.

Mr. Seabrook is described as a humble, quiet and unassuming man hesitant to tell you of his many blue ribbons and accolades. He is, however, understandably proud of being an inductee of two New Jersey Halls of Fame. The Jersey Shore Rugby HOF and the New Jersey Decoy Collectors Association Hall of Fame. Retired from a career as a biologist for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection he resides in Absecon with his wife Shelia and Lincoln the retriever.

Bob's decoys, shorebirds and oyster collectibles have been displayed in special exhibits over the past quarter-century. A 2011 exhibit at The Tuckerton Seaport displayed over 100 pieces of "SEABROOK." Mr. Seabrook was a founding father of the New Jersey Decoy Collectors Association (NJDCA) and he presents a "pop-up" exhibit at NJDCA's April show each year with his one man exhibits receiving national recognition. Bob has judged for the Ocean County Old Time Decoy and Gunning show and he will be featured in this September's 2024 show.

Upcoming Barnegat Bay Folklife Programming Ocean County Parks & Recreation

For more information or to register, refer to the Ocean County Parks & Recreation newsletter at:
732-506-9090 or www.oceancountyparks.org

Cloverdale Farm's Plein Air Weekend

LOCATION: Entire Park, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Friday, September 6 - Sunday, September 8 at 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Friday, October 4 - Sunday, October 6 at 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Friday, November 1 - Sunday, November 3 at 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
FEE: Free
AGES: All, Children must be accompanied by an adult

Wooden Spoon Carving Class ~ with Kevin Hammell

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Saturday, September 7 at 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 registration fee. **Please bring \$30.00 in exact change for the instructor & materials.**
AGES: All, Children must be accompanied by an adult

Create a Walking Stick ~ with Brad Koller

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Sunday, October 6 at 12:00 - 3:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 registration fee. **Please bring \$30.00 in exact change for the instructor & materials.**
AGES: 8 years – Adult. Children age 8-13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sunday Down on the Farm Long Basket ~ with master basket maker Mary May

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Sunday, October 20 at 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 registration fee. **Please bring \$50.00 in exact change for the instructor & materials.**
AGES: Adult

Cherokee Picnic Basket ~ with master basket maker Mary May

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Friday, November 22 and Saturday, November 23 at 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 registration fee. **Please bring \$140.00 in exact change for the instructor & materials.**
AGES: Adult

Wheat Weaving: Candy Cane ~ with Christine Metzler

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Saturday, November 30 at 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 registration fee. **Please bring \$24.00 in exact change for the instructor & materials.**
AGES: Adult

Reindeer Pair ~ with master basket maker Mary May

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Friday, December 6 at 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 registration fee. **Please bring \$28.00 in exact change for the instructor & materials.**
AGES: Adult

Wheat Angel ~ with Christine Metzler

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Saturday, December 14 at 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 registration fee. **Please bring \$24.00 in exact change for the instructor & materials.**
AGES: 15 years - Adult

NEW HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

42nd Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show
Sat.-Sun. September 28 & 29, 2024

Tip Seaman County Park
120 Lakeside Drive, Tuckerton, NJ 08087

& Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum
120 W Main Street, Tuckerton, NJ 08087



Don't miss out!

- Interact with decoy carving, boat building, and basket making demonstrators
- Enjoy guided boat tours on Tuckerton Creek
- Enter & watch contests
- Sing along to musical performances

- Paint a flatie decoy
- Design & color your own decoy pattern
- Carve a soap decoy
- Play decoy & boat games - learn how you can become a folk artist, too!
- Visit new exhibit with short-movies & art display

New!

- Play Corn Hole
- Take aim with Archery
- Play life-sized Chess & Checkers
- Clamming-by-hand game
- Weave paper cup baskets
- Take-home decoy crafts



For more information on entering contests:
ocparks.co.ocean.nj.us/frmSpecialEvents



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

We will be offering one hour Creek Tours on Saturday and Sunday of Decoy Show Weekend.

Stop by the Lighthouse to reserve your seats!

 **OCEANFIRST**
FLOATING CLASSROOM
Making Waves for Local Communities!



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
Held on the Second Saturday of Each Month
Free Program Open to Young Learners Ages 12-17
Tradition Relies On Passing It On!



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



**PLANS FOR
THE SEAPORT'S
25th Anniversary
IN 2025
HAVE BEGUN!**

New! Guest Guided
Creek Tours

New! Tuckerton Seaport:
A Museum in the
Making Exhibit

New! Hear Our Stories
In the Jersey Shore
Folklife Center

New! Hunting Shanty
Exhibit Refresh

New! 25 Free
Community Events

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Games ~ Crafts ~ Live Animal Talks ~ Horse Carriage Rides (11am-2pm) ~ Campfire Storytime
Food ~ A Visit from Santa ~ Candy Cane Nature Walk



**FREE
EVENT**

Saturday, December 14 ~ 10am - 2pm

Horse Carriage Rides 11am-2pm

Cattus Island County Park

Cooper Environmental Center



The Affair at CEDAR BRIDGE

Sunday
DECEMBER 1, 2024

200 Old Halfway Road, Barnegat, New Jersey



Awesome Autumn FUN



**JAKES BRANCH
COUNTY PARK**
1100 Double Trouble Road
Beachwood
FREE ~ All Ages ~ Family Event
Nov 2 1-3pm



**HAYRIDES, PETTING ZOO, LAWN GAMES
LIVE MUSIC, KIDS CRAFTS, FOOD TRUCK ON SITE**

30th Annual Pine Barrens Jamboree

FREE! Saturday, October 12 10am - 4:30pm
Wells Mills County Park in Waretown



Brought to you by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners Virginia E. Haines - Chairwoman of Parks and Recreation
Barbara Jo Cree, Virginia E. Haines, John P. Kelly, Gary Quinn, Frank Sadeghi

Thanks for All Your Help!

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

German Georgieff (Show Coordinator),
Brooke Salvanto,
Amanda Truhan (Asst. Show Coordinator),
Tim Hart, Catherine McLearen,
Samantha Stokes, JuliaRose Driscoll

Show Committee Volunteers

Gary Bell • Bob Fricke
John Holloway • Tom Gormley
Ron "Poss" Hammell
Dick Jessen • George Kurtz
Malcolm Robinson • Andrew Tonneson
Jim Thompson • Steve Tarnow

Special Thanks

We thank the many volunteers who helped in making the 2024 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.

Ray Gormley of
My Three Sons Seafood & Produce,
Parkertown, NJ (609) 296-2589
For stage and grounds decorations.

2024 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 2023 New Jersey State Duck Calling Championship's participation in the 2023 World Championship at Stuttgart, Arkansas, in November

**Join Us Next Year For The
2025 Old Time Barnegat Bay
Decoy & Gunning Show
September 27 & 28 2025,
Tuckerton, NJ**

**On The Cover:
Blue-Winged teal decoy by
W. Fred Reitmeyer, Jr.**



**NEW JERSEY DECOY
COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION**

**31st Annual
Decoy, Art & Hunting
Collectibles Show and Sale**

"BEST OLD DECOY SHOW IN NEW JERSEY"

NEW



LOCATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

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

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

ADMISSION: Adult - \$5.00
Children 12 & under FREE

Once again we will have:

**2025 FEATURED CARVER
ARTIFACT DISPLAY
FOOD & DRINK in the Campus Center
FREE DECOY APPRAISALS
GUEST SPEAKERS
DECOY "FLATTIE" PAINTING
CARVING DEMONSTRATIONS
"OLD BIRD" DECOY CONTEST**

SHOW CONTACTS

Jaim Lloyd - Club President
609-703-6143
Clarence Fennimore - Co-Chairman
609-405-4376
John Shores - Co-Chairman
732-691-3278
Al Barker - Art Chairman
609-298-7459



**BARNEGAT BAY
MARITIME
MUSEUM**

**OPEN HOUSE
& 50/50 RAFFLE
DRAW**

Saturday, Dec. 14th, 2024

10 am - 2 pm

Come see our historic Barnegat Bay watershed boats, models, exhibits and more, while enjoying refreshments, meeting like-minded individuals and taking part in our annual 50/50 raffle drawing, to be held at 2 pm alongside historic A-Cat Spy!

Raffle license #107-5-24072

CONTACT US

78 East Water Street, Toms River, NJ 08722
(entrance on Hooper Avenue)

Telephone: (732) 349-9202

Email:

barnegatbaymaritimemuseum@gmail.com

Website:

www.barnegatbaymaritimemuseum.org

Stanley H. “Tip” Seaman County Park

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



Ocean County Board of Commissioners

Virginia E. Haines
Chairwoman of Parks and Recreation
Barbara Jo Crea
John P. Kelly
Gary Quinn
Frank Sadeghi



Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation

Administrative Offices
1198 Bandon Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
1-877-OC-PARKS
Fax: 1-732-270-9464

www.oceancountyparks.org

<http://www.facebook.com/OceanCountyParks>



Mary Jane Bavais, *Director*