

PDCA Announces Winner of Inaugural Ralph Campbell Award

Dear Members,

Last night, the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association held its annual end of the year holiday party. During the celebration, I had the honor of presenting the first ever Ralph Campbell Memorial Award for Goodwill and Ambassadorship in the Decoy Collecting Community. This is a very special and fitting tribute named for one of our most beloved founding members. Ralph's wife, Barbara, was in attendance and joined me as I presented the plaque to Jim Trimble.

We received nominations from members literally across the country, which was wonderful, and I want to thank everyone who took the time to submit a nomination. Please know that once someone is nominated, they are nominated in perpetuity and will continue to be considered for the award in subsequent years.

I want to thank Tom East for chairing the awards committee, which included Larry Myers, Ray Whetzel, Chris Worch and me. This group had the daunting task of sorting through a number of very compelling nominations, nearly all of which were deserving of this unique honor. But in the end, the committee decided that there could be only one winner this year – and there was one name, one person that stood out above all others.

When you look at the criteria that the awards committee developed and considered—active and longstanding member of the decoy collecting community; service to clubs and museums; shares freely of his knowledge; adheres to the spirit and principles of our code of ethics; contributes to decoy scholarship; recruits and mentors new collectors; and embodies Ralph's spirit of friendship and humility—Jim checks every box.

As we gathered to celebrate the end of another great year of collecting and club fellowship, I felt that Ralph was there with us. Through the award that we bestow in his name, his spirit and memory will live on.

Jim, you truly deserve this award! Members, please join me in congratulating Jim!

Merry Christmas and a very Happy 2010 to all!

Chad Tragakis