

Potomac Decoy Collectors Association Donations Reach \$10,000

At its February 2011 meeting, members of the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association (PDCA) voted unanimously to make cash donations totaling \$2,000 to five important institutions that preserve and celebrate waterfowl decoys. Combined with donations to these same and other institutions over the past eight years, the PDCA has now donated more than \$10,000 to deserving organizations.

"We love, value and respect old decoys," said PDCA president Chad Tragakis, "It's vital that they be preserved and celebrated for the public and for future generations to appreciate and understand. Our club's donations to these museums will help ensure that."

The donations are earmarked for the acquisition of waterfowl decoys and related artifacts. In light of recent economic challenges, museums have been forced to put acquisitions on hold so that basic operations could be maintained. PDCA's gifts aim to help bolster these institutions' coffers enough so that, alone or in combination with other donations, several new pieces can be acquired from private collections and put on display for the enjoyment and education of the broader public.

The museums that received donations include: The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum in Havre de Grace, Maryland, The Ward Foundation in Salisbury, Maryland, The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michael's, Maryland, the Upper Bay Museum in North East, Maryland, and the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum in Virginia Beach.

"Supporting these institutions is critical to maintaining the rightful legacy of the American waterfowl decoy and that, in turn, is vital to sharing this passion with others and growing our hobby," said Tragakis. "Our club believes that we have a responsibility to support these museums and what they're doing, and we recognize the opportunity we have to further decoy preservation and scholarship," he added.

The donations are possible due to the careful management of the club's treasury, namely income from membership dues and proceeds from PDCA's annual holiday party auction. Since the club's founding 15 years ago, dues have remained exactly the same, only \$20.00 per year.

All PDCA members should feel good about these donations, and know that part of their membership dues are going to museums that are preserving and celebrating the old decoys we all love so much.