

PDCA's New Exhibit Opens at Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

This month, the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association is proud to launch a new exhibit at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, *Decoys of the Potomac River: 1912 – 2012*. The display, which celebrates 100 years of decoys with a Potomac River pedigree, is the eighth guest exhibit that the club has curated in conjunction with the museum.

As the major waterway that runs through the Washington metropolitan region and the landmark for which our club is named, the Potomac holds a special place for the members of the PDCA. Because of this strong interest in our rich, local history and our proximity to its banks, it's not surprising that several of our members have focused part of their collections on the decoys made and used nearby.

"We've had several outstanding exhibits through our collaboration with the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum," said PDCA president Chad Tragakis, "but after nearly 10 years of this wonderful partnership, it's nice to be celebrating our local Potomac heritage and the decoys that were made and used so close to where many of our members live."

A wide variety of examples are displayed, more than 50 in all, including old working decoys, contemporary gunning birds, and decorative carvings by some of the finest award-winning decoy-makers working in the country today. The exhibit features old working decoys by Potomac River makers including James Baines, Corb Reed, Charlie Moore, Albert Campbell and Charles Herbert. Member carvers including Ray Whetzel, Bruce Eppard, Mark Finisecy, Bill Powell and Doily Fulcher, among others, are also represented. A special connection between the subject of the exhibit and the Decoy Museum is found in the decoys that were fashioned in Havre de Grace and elsewhere in the Upper Chesapeake Bay, but used on the bountiful waters of the Potomac. Examples of Upper Bay decoys used by Potomac River gunning clubs are found in the work of Sam Barnes, Jim Holly, Bob McGaw, Taylor Boyd, Madison Mitchell and Paul Gibson.

A special note of gratitude is extended to Chris and Vivian Worch, Tom East and Jim Trimble who loaned the majority of decoys included in the exhibit.

PDCA's guest exhibits, which in the past have featured mallards, wing ducks, ruddy ducks, redheads, branded decoys and most recently, high-head decoys, have been extremely popular with museum visitors. *Decoys of the Potomac River* runs through January 2013.