

FREE ADMISSION FREE SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

Free Parking: See Pages 6 & 7

43rd ANNUAL

OLD TIME BARNEGAT BAY DECOY & GUNNING SHOW

in Historic Tuckerton

Over 200 Waterfowling Exhibitors & Vendors

Saturday, September 27

7am - 5pm

Sunday, September 28

7am - 4pm



DOCK DOGS ARE BACK



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

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



JERSEY SHORE FOLKLIFE CENTER

Did you know Tuckerton Seaport is home to the Jersey Shore Folklife Center, one of only five Folklife Centers in NJ?

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.



The Jersey Shore Folklife Center is a project of Tuckerton Seaport and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



Welcome!

TO THE 43RD OLD TIME BARNEGAT BAY DECOY & GUNNING SHOW

RETURNING FOR 2025! ~ Delaware Dock Dogs Are Back ~

The Ocean County Board of Commissioners and the Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation welcomes you to the **2025 Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show**.

Ocean County Parks & Recreation is happy to sponsor and welcome the Delmarva Dock Dogs. Thank you to longtime Show Coordinator, German Georgieff who has retired from Ocean County Parks & Recreation. We all wish him well. See <https://www.co.ocean.nj.us/WebContent-FilesWebContentFiles/6f642852-2607-46bd-ac93-1eeb910dc754.pdf>

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.

The music tent provides 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 **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 26 & 27, 2026!**



The 43rd 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

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**

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 27

SKEET/DOG AREA

- Preliminary Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox
- Women's Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox
- Youth Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox
- Retrieving Demonstration by Navesink River Hunting Retriever Club
- Retriever Contest - Puppy
- Retriever Contest - Novice
- Preliminary Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox

7:00 AM - 10:30 AM
10:30 AM
11:00 AM
12:00 PM
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 Decoy & Youth Shorebird Contest
- Shorebird Decoy Contests
- Miniature Decoy Contests
- Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Contest - Traditional

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

PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

- Model Boat Contest
- Art & Photo Contests
- Decorative Contests

10:00 AM
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 28

SKEET/DOG AREA

- Preliminary Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox
- World Championship Skeetshoot Finals
- Retrieving Demonstration by Navesink River Hunting Retriever Club
- Retriever Contest - Advanced

7:00 AM - 11:00 AM
11:30 AM
12:00 PM
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
- Contemporary Antique Decoy Contest
- Head Whittling Contest
- Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Contest - Decorative Slick
- Advanced Carver Contest

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

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 27

Carving & Craft Demonstrations
Tuckerton Creek Boat Rides

Retrieving Demonstration by
Navesink River Hunting Retriever Club

TIME

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

12:00 PM

LOCATION

Family Fun Tent - Park
Tuckerton Seaport

Skeet/Retriever Area

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Carving & Craft Demonstrations
Tuckerton Creek Boat Rides

Retrieving Demonstration by
Navesink River Hunting Retriever Club

TIME

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

12:00 PM

LOCATION

Heritage Tent Park
Tuckerton Seaport

Skeet/Retriever Area

Music by The Pines

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Gary Struncius and Debbie Lawton
Jackson Pines
Basement Musicians

TIME

9:00 AM - 11:00 PM
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

LOCATION

Park
Park
Park

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Gary Struncius and Debbie Lawton
Basement Musicians

TIME

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

LOCATION

Park
Park

*** Times and events subject to change without notice***



2025 Plaque Sponsors

Please support our sponsors who have graciously provided the following plaques

CLARENCE & LINDA FENNIMORE

Youth Gunning Decoy Contest
Ages 15 to 17

BRADEN CHIROPRACTIC CENTER

517 Hollywood Ave.,
Toms River, NJ
732-341-4900

Retriever Contest – Novice
Retriever Contest- Advanced
Youth Championship Skeetshoot
from a Sneakbox

DAYS OF OLDE ANTIQUE CENTER

150 S. New York Rd, Galloway, NJ
609-652-7011

<https://www.daysofoldeantiques.com/>
Mark Ford: Hurley Conklin Award

ESTUARY BOATS

<https://www.estuaryboats.com/>
Best Grassed Duck Boat Contest

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW HAMMELL

Youth Barnegat Bay Open Duck
Calling Contest

KEVIN HAMMELL DECOYS

Youth Gunning Decoy Contest -
Ages 14 & Under

MALCOLM ROBINSON

Harry M. Shourds: Harry Mitchell
Shourds Heritage Award

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
Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy Rig
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 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

TUCKERTON SEAPORT & BAYMEN'S MUSEUM

120 West Main St., Tuckerton, NJ
609-296-8868

Youth Shorebird Decoy Contest -
Ages 17 & under

WOOD FUNERAL HOME

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

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
- Contemporary Gunning Boat –
Development Class
- South Jersey Pond Box Contest
- South Jersey Traditional Hunting &
Working Boat Contest
- Barnegat Bay Gunning Decoy
Contest - Decorative Slick
- 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
- Contemporary Antique Decoy Contest
- Advanced Carver Award
- 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
- Barnegat Bay Hunters Duck Calling
Championship
- New Jersey Goose Calling
Championship - Open
- Art Contest
- Photo Contest
- Youth Barnegat Bay Goose Calling
Contest
- Youth Photo Contest
- Youth Art Contest - Ages 14 to 17
- George Strunk: Hurley Conklin Award
- Rube Corliss: Harry Mitchell Shourds
Heritage Award
- Jim Allen: Michael T. Mangum Hall of
Fame Award
- John Holloway: Michael T. Mangum
Hall of Fame Award

**If you or your business
would like to sponsor a
plaque in 2026,
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 Custom Knives
- Cedar & Sea Co.
- Dave's Workshop
- Decoy Magazine
- Ralston "Hop" Edwards
- Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge
- Friends of Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge
- Vincent Gianetto III
- Mark Gibson Decoys and Paintings
- Green Beret Spray
- Rich Haines
- John Irwin Studios
- Kootenai Creek Decoys
- Kyla & Poppy Jessen Decoys
- League of Women Voters of Ocean County
- Lighthouse Challenge of NJ
- Navesink River Hunting Retriever Club
- NJ Conservation Officers Association
- NJ Ducks Unlimited
- Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation
- Ocean County Department of Planning
- Reclam The Bay
- Reitmeyer Decoys
- Thomas Sanquind - Charles VanNote Decoy Collection

- T. Franklin Marketing
- Michael Van Note Decoys

FOOD VENDORS

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

OPEN FIELD

- James Allen
- Barnegat Bay Sportsman Club
- Barnett's Pond Boxes
- Bellport Decoys
- Bell's Decoys
- Birds & Bees Honey Farms
- Birdsell Decoys
- Blanchette Decoys
- Boy Scout Troop 71
- Butler Decoys
- Anthony Ciambrone
- David Clark Boat Builder/Canvas Bags
- Codykai Calls
- Cohansey Meadows Farms
- Colorful Collars
- Custom Bags by Diane
- Laurel Dabbs Decoys
- Delaware River Decoys
- The Duck Boat Company
- The Duck Guru



- Bill Ethington Decoys
- EZ Dekes
- Clarence Fennimore Decoys
- Flyaway Decoys
- Mark Ford Decoys
- Franklin Trailers
- Good Boy Biscuits & Bones
- William Hammarstom
- Kevin Hammell Decoys
- J.P. Hand Decoys
- Keith Heinrichs
- Tim Hewitt
- Hillman Decoys
- Mike Kensler - Woodburnings
- Killum Calls & Guide Service
- Marty Kristiansen
- Barry Levine
- Gene Marshall Decoys
- McCay Wood Products
- Terry McNulty Decoys
- New Jersey Fur Harvesters
- NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife
- NJ Forest Fire Service
- NJ Waterfowlers
- Northern Duck Calls
- Rich Pemberton
- Piney Tribe
- Powell Decoy Shop
- Steven Jay Sanford
- Save Barnegat Bay
- Paul Scarlett
- John Shores
- David Thibault Sr. Decoys
- Tommy Duck Decoys
- Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum
- Kevin Wharton Decoys
- Wildlife Artist - Nancy Smith

****As of
August 13, 2025**

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

43rd "Old Time" Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show

Don't Miss Both Locations!

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

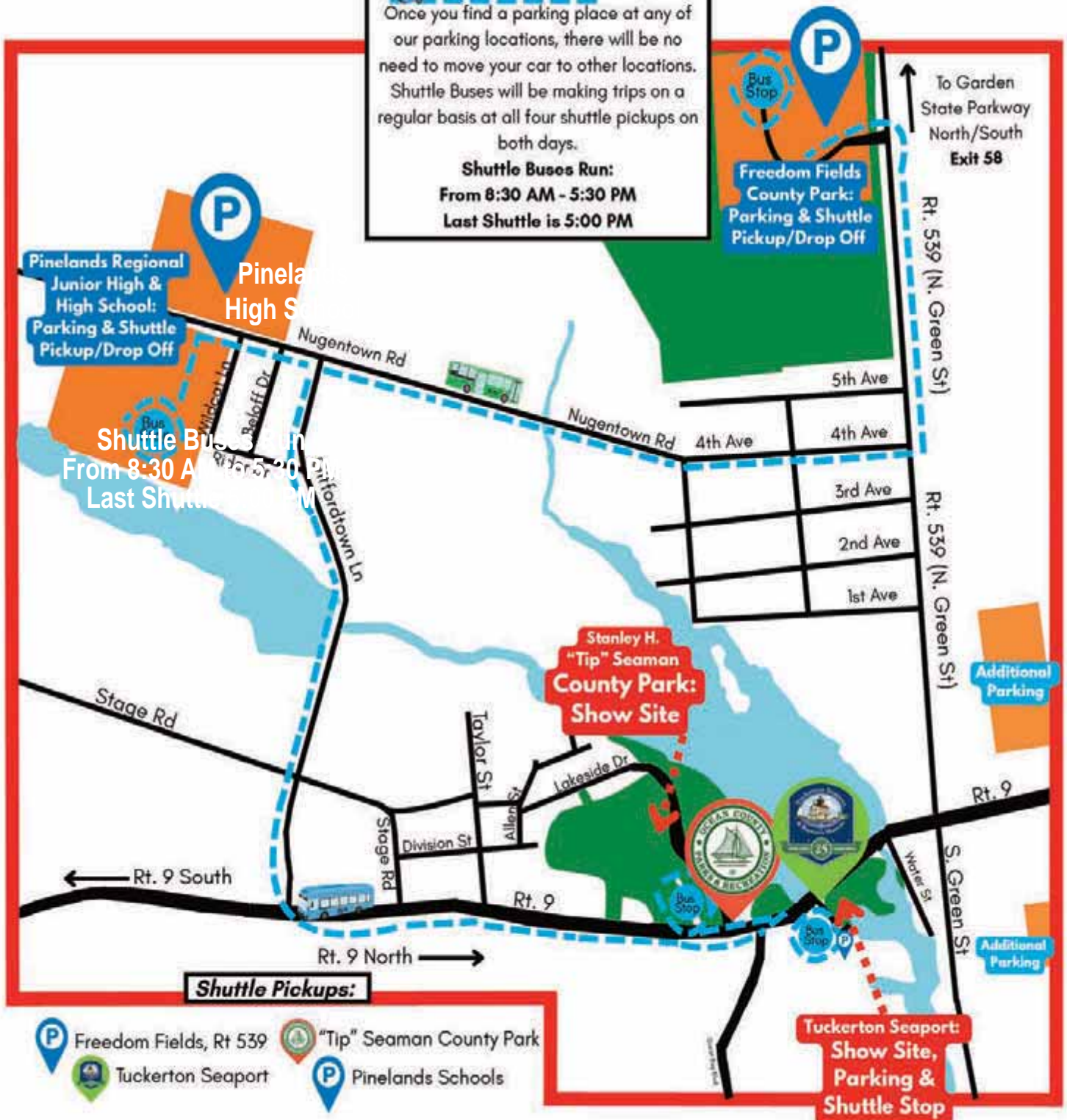
*****For Information, Call: (609) 971-3085**



Ocean Ride:

Once you find a parking place at any of our parking locations, there will be no need to move your car to other locations. Shuttle Buses will be making trips on a regular basis at all four shuttle pickups on both days.

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



Plan Your Weekend!



ADA Parking:

Enter through main entrance at Tip Seaman County Park

At the Seaport:

Free Admission to the Museum Exhibits, Children's Activities, & Boat Rides!



At the Park:

- Family Fun Tent
- Live Music
- Archery
- Exhibitors
- Food Court
- Demonstrations
- Presentation Tent
- Community Center: Art Contest Exhibits
- Games
- Show Tent
- Decoy Judging
- Skeet Shooting
- Retriever Dog Competition Area
- Dock Dogs
- Stage: Duck & Goose Calling

Rt. 9 North & South:

Restaurants, Quick Bites, Shops, & Additional Parking all within walking distance of show sites!

TUCKERTON SEAPORT SITE MAP

Lake Pohatcong

Captain's House

Yacht Club

Parking Lot

Hunting Shanty

Union Market

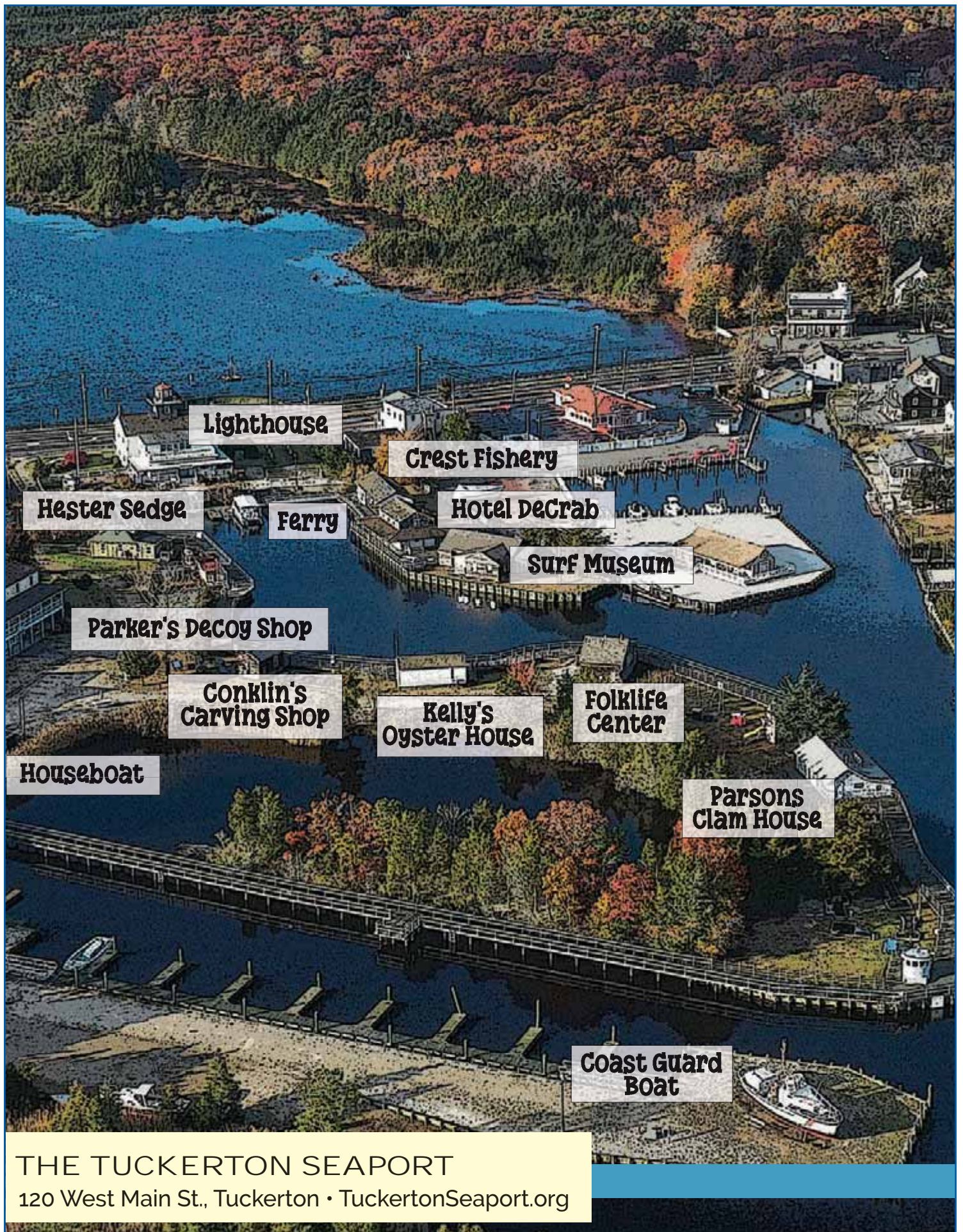
Nature Trail
Entrance

Dayton's
Sawmill

Perrine's
Boatworks

**Safety First: Please watch your step,
be aware of your surroundings, and
be mindful of natural landscapes.**

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 Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

By Joshua Gant

Unique among North American waterfowl, this miniscule diving duck is in a class all its own. Being the smallest regularly occurring diving duck in North America, a hunter would need to bag quite a few of these morsels for a good sized meal. Currently the Ruddy Duck is considered poor table fare, although records

from the late 1800's show quite a bit of hunting pressure with these ducks being the third most taken. Not known for being the brightest, nor sneakiest ducks on the pond, sometimes swimming right up to boats and blinds, Ruddy Ducks were easily hunted on the open bay and ponds they called home.

In spring, the male Ruddy Duck is a beautiful sight. Dark cinnamon brown sides, back, and neck, a large white cheek patch, and a beautiful light blue bill. The females are a cool gray-brown with a black bill and a dark line through the eye. In the fall and winter Ruddy Ducks lose that blue color on the bill, returning to black until the following spring. They can dive up to 10 feet in search of aquatic invertebrates and submerged vegetation. Ruddy Ducks can use their stiff tail like rudder to help them maneuver underwater. The stiff upheld tail is also an ID feature unique to this genus of ducks and makes them quite identifiable even at a distance.

The many nicknames of the Ruddy Duck give a lively telling of this species behaviors from sportsmen over the years, from Butterball, and Hard Head, to Sleepy-brother and Shotpouch. Not too many people around New Jersey get to see this duck in its breeding best. Along with the neat colors this bird shows during the breeding season you may also get to hear its amazing display ritual. Ruddy's make little quacking sounds and smack their bills against the water to perform a bubbling display for their partners before mating. Males will also perform display flights around the nesting area. They frequently lay their eggs in other duck's nests spreading the approximately 14 young out while only keeping a few for themselves to raise, while also getting parasitized back by other duck species.

From the 1955 to 1979 the long stable population in the Chesapeake Bay dropped precipitously. The main driver behind this was the disappearance of the wild celery also known as eelgrass from the bay. The shift in diet to invertebrates in saltier water led to the duck's edibility changing from succulent to sour. They have re-stabilized in the Chesapeake Bay thanks to a low take by hunters and improving water quality and habitat, with help from non-profit organization like DU. With an average population of about 1.3 million worldwide, this species is currently a species of least concern.



29TH ANNUAL DECOY SHOW COLLECTOR'S PINS



Add To Your Collection

Each year the show highlights one species of waterfowl.

The 2025 commemorative pins feature

"Bird of the Year"

Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

Look for this cloisonne 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

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

Mark Ford

Donated by Days of Olde Antique Center

George Strunk

Donated by Ocean County Parks & Recreation

Hurley Conklin Award Winners

Mark Ford by Pat Johnson

Mark Ford says at age 60 he's too young to win the Hurley Conklin Award but he has accepted reluctantly. Ford was born on November 4, 1964 and grew up on Dock Road in Parkertown, part of Little Egg Harbor Township. He was perfectly situated to become a Barnegat Bay style decoy carver; carver Mutt Cramer lived across the street and carver Rob Daley lived nearby on Route 9. Cramer taught him how to use a band saw and Daley was always around to show the adolescent Ford his work. "Daley added artistic flair to a decoy that was different from the norm. He was a real artist."

Ford said Daley would use a top pattern but would just start hacking away with a band saw to make the body and then would use his carving tools to shape the birds. "He could rough cut a dozen bodies in a day and then decide what they would be in the following days," said Ford. "He would ask me – 'What does that look like?' And I'd say, 'Looks like a broadbill or a black duck,' and he'd say, 'Ok, that's what it will be.'"

Can genetics be part of a craftsmen's story? "Frank Lamson and my great Uncle Calvin Hickman were all decoy carvers and boat builders. My Great

Uncle Lamson taught Hurley Conklin to carve," said Ford.

Ford's early life living on Dock Road was where he witnessed the baymen's way of life—clamming, fishing, boat building and decoy making--all were ordinary pursuits by extraordinary men. Through the years Ford met most of the local carvers and baymen and heard lots of their stories, which he treasures.

Ford relates, "My first memory of carving, I was 9 or 10, I was sitting on the steps to the basement of my aunt's house and watching my cousins carve blocks of wood. They were sitting around in a circle with a couple of friends, Gary and Chris Johnson. I remember thinking, 'I want to do that.'"



Mark Ford, 2025. Photo Credit: Pat Johnson

When Ford was in the 11th grade at Pinelands Regional High School he took a carving class with local carver John Holloway. "Holloway was good but a bit of a curmudgeon," said Ford.

His real opportunity to hone his craft came by the side door at Rodger West's Clam House on South Green Street in Tuckerton. His best friend in High School was Dave West. West told Ford that his grandpa needed help at the clam house. "There was a boat shop attached to the clam house and I was allowed to use it to make decoys. It was a great place to carve, people would stop by to see the progress and to hang out. There was always something going on in the boat shop. I built a gunning garvey in it and it won first place at the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy and Gunning Show in 1988, my first award."

"Around that time a gentleman said to my Dad, 'That kid is really a good carver. He's going to win awards

Continued on page 14

someday.' My Dad said, 'You won't have to wait too long...' and in 1989, I won Best of Show at the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy and Gunning Show for my Broadbill, in 2004 for my Brant and 2012 for my Red-breasted merganser."

In 1992, he made a rig of 12 black ducks for the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy and Gunning Show. That year his rig came in 4th. But he was determined. "I said to myself, 'I'm not stopping until I get that trophy.' And I won it in 2010."



Stages of Fords Decoys. Photo Credit: Pat Johnson

Ford grew up to be a carpenter with his father and is particularly good at finish work. Today he owns his own carpentry business, Home Repairs and Improvement. He and his wife Frances live in a 200-year-old farmhouse that was a 'handyman's nightmare' in New Gretna that they have restored. His workshop is a converted chicken coop, heated in winter by a wood stove and in summer by the catch-as-catch can breezes. He also restored boats for 40 years.

He can sometimes work 17 hours straight in the shop if he is painting decoys for a show, he said. His work ethic has won him numerous ribbons. Last year alone he won a dozen awards at the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy and Gunning Show including a first for his bufflehead in the Contemporary Antique Duck category. In 2011, the New Jersey Decoy Collectors Association honored him with the Decoy Carver of the Year award. He gave a decoy to the club and they sold 960 raffle tickets.

Ford said he never was 'a ribbon chaser,' still, a large stack of award ribbons is pinned unceremoniously in a dusty corner of his workshop. "I usually give the ribbons away with the winning decoy if I sell it," said Ford. "I've always appreciated and enjoyed the friendly competition at the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy Show. I have a lot of good memories of friends and fellow carvers," he added.

Ford collects decoys as well as makes them. In his collection are many John Updyke decoys. "Updyke was from Wading River and that's where my Mother's family is from, the Maxwells," said Ford. "There was a town called Maxwell on the other side of the Wading River."

The Fords came from Green and Lower Banks and are prominently mentioned in *Jersey Genesis*, the book about the Mullica River folk by Henry Carlton Beck.

"My Uncle Kenny Maxwell (2000) was a Hurley Conklin Award winner and a self-made man. I told him once, "You are like George Bailey, you're the richest man in town. You raised four kids on a baymen's common sense approach to life and they were all successful."

Carver Dick McKindless (1992) was also one of the early Hurley Conklin winners. "Out of all the people in Parkertown he and Mutt Cramer were the best teachers," said Ford. "They were carvers and boat builders and you better listen to them because they knew how to do it."

Some decoy carvers won't give up their secrets—they jealously guard techniques and paint recipes—but Ford is of a different stripe. Like his heroes, Cramer and McKindlass, he is generous with his time and talent.

He teaches the Youth Carving class at the Tuckerton Seaport with Gene Marshall and his friend and fellow carver Malcolm Robinson. It was Robinson who started the youth carving club.

"I feel obligated to share —It's really a pleasure to show these kids at the Seaport to carve. I don't want to carry any secrets," said Ford.

"I've been so fortunate to know Howard Ware, Dick McKindlass, Mutt Cramer, Rocky Wycoff and talk to Harland Price — all those old-timers—that lifestyle is gone." But thanks to Ford and others that keep the traditions alive the stories continue.

"It's a lovely hobby," said Ford. "There's nothing like the feeling of a sharp knife and a nice piece of cedar. And I'm still learning as I go."

George Strunk by Pat Johnson

George Strunk started carving ducks when a neighbor moved next to his family's summer cabin on the Delaware Bay shoreline and hung out a Decoy sign. The neighbor was noted decoy carver James (Jamie) P. Hand (2018), protégé of Hurley Conklin himself.

"He started building a house and my father and brother asked if I wanted to meet the new neighbor so we went over and he was out chopping decoys. I got talking to him and he asked if I wanted to try it and I said sure—so he chopped me out a blank and I took it home and would bring it back and he would show me more. It was a square little bufflehead. I think I had a pocket-knife and a rasp—I don't know what I used exactly. My main goal was to have something to hunt with."

Strunk was born in 1958 and lives in Glendora, New Jersey, just around the block from where he grew up. He carves decoys full time now after retiring from his work as a Union ironworker when he worked on buildings in Philadelphia and Atlantic City."



*George Strunk in his carving shop, 2025.
Photo Credit: Pat Johnson*

Strunk mainly carves Delaware style decoys but also enjoys carving Barnegat Bay style birds, what he started with. "Jamie carved Barnegat style and so did I until I met a guy around here (Glendora) who asked me why I wasn't carving Delaware style, so I started that. I still do Barnegat Bay style occasionally." The difference between the styles is the Delaware 'puddle' birds have carved wing tips and more details than the traditional Barnegat Bay decoy.

He also carves shorebird stuck-ups, and upland birds like plovers, grouse, quail and woodcock.

He has been a regular vendor at the Ocean County Decoy and Gunning Show starting in 1986. He has also won ribbons in the various decoy-carving contests.

"I entered some contests and won a pretty lot of ribbons. Early on, I won the black duck rig—12 birds against twelve other rigs—that was a big one.

"I won and I lost," he said philosophically. But every year he entered his Delaware River decoy, he won.

"Even if I didn't get a table I always go. You meet a lot of people you don't see all year so it's good. I've been doing it for so long, I know just about everybody —it's fun, it's a great show."

Strunk, like many boys in rural areas, started hunting rabbits when he was 12 with his brother and cousins. He didn't have far to go as there were extensive woodlands and a creek near his home. "I grew up on the same block where I live now. Timber Creek is across the road and I used to hunt it until the 90's. It was nothing to walk down the street and cross the railroad tracks with your gun and dog and people would ask—'How'd you do?' But with urban sprawl I can't do that now. It was a totally different world."

When at his parent's cabin in Goshen he hunted ducks with his brother from a makeshift blind. Later as a young man he hunted with Jamie Hand and another noted decoy carver, Bob White. He learned a lot about painting from White—who wasn't a 'teacher' but was fine with letting a young carver watch and learn.

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“I watched everybody I could—that’s if someone would let you watch ’em. Bob White was the only guy I knew that did Delawares so I sought him out and got very friendly.”

Strunk said he doesn’t hunt as much as he used to. “As you get older it’s a bit harder, but I was a fanatical duck hunter when I was young...I clean them and cook them. With ducks I BBQ them or roast them sometimes...I read a recipe where you put an inch of Coca-cola in the pan. But the best way I like to cook duck is in a stew with onions, potatoes and carrots. The best eating ducks are teal, wood ducks, mallards, pintails... I also shoot quail and doves. Doves are the best eating. I used to have a cabin in Maine and I shot grouse. They’re the best eating. I don’t shoot anything I don’t eat.”



*Strunk Black Duck and Pintail in the Delaware River Style.
Photo Credit: Pat Johnson*

Hunting birds has been a boon to Strunk’s decoy carving. “You get to handle them, see them up close —it helps. But today there are such great pictures on the Internet.”

In his workshop behind his home in Glendora, finished, semi-finished and just-begun decoys are scattered around his workbenches. He keeps a very neat shop—tools and paints all have their place within arms length.

He likes to start with a chunk of Jersey cedar or northern cedar from Maine and adds details to his decorative birds--beaks in poplar, glass eyes. He uses

a pattern and then starts to chop out the body of the bird and the separate head using a hatchet. Then trims and forms them using a draw blade, gouges and knife.

“I like painting and I consider myself still learning. There are certain brush strokes that you learn—I’m always trying something new—I’m more relaxed painting than I used to be.”

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*Jim Allen with highlights from his collection.
Photo Credit: Pat Johnson*

JIM ALLEN:

Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show **MICHAEL T. MANGUM** *HALL OF FAME*

by Pat Johnson & Catherine McLearen

As in many institutions, we sometimes take for granted the history and men behind their inception. The Michael T. Mangum Hall of Fame Award was created to rectify that. Decoy collector Jim Allen of Tuckerton has rightly been given the award for his contributions to the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy and Gunning Show and perpetuating the traditions of the Barnegat Bay over the decades.

Allen is also a founding member of the New Jersey Decoy Collectors Association. Because of his expertise

he is a consultant for Copley Fine Art Auctions and he had his own business, Decoy Heritage.

The Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy and Gunning Show started when Allen was secretary of the New Jersey Decoy Collectors Association and they wanted to use Ocean County's Tip Seaman Park for a buy, swap, sell. He asked Ocean County Parks and Recreation Naturalist Mike Mangum.

"Mike said, 'Why don't we just do a show?' and basically off it went. The Decoy Show from day one really put the stamp on the Tuckerton area," said Allen.

Mangum recounted that Allen had a bigger vision for the show and what it could be than other members of the Collectors Association. The Show, thought Mangum and Allen, should represent all facets of waterfowling and should be for a wider audience not only for the dedicated local collectors. This is the 43rd Decoy Show and Allen has been involved all along. Allen was on the Decoy Show Committee from the beginning. He did appraisals for a couple of years and he still sets up a table of the decoys he can part with. He also judges some of the decoy carving contests.

Allen's favorite contest to compete in was the Waterfowling contest which included rowing a Sneakbox onto Lake Pohatong and setting up a rig of decoys. "Jimmy and Shaun Mann partnered on that contest and they were the masters," Mangum recalled.

While advocating for new additions to the show each year to attract new people, Allen was also critical in convening the heavy hitting collectors to bring legitimacy and quality judging to the show, the likes of which included; Somers Headley, Doc Conover, and Johnny Hillman.

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“The very first decoy show I attended was at the Carlton House in 1969. My dad took me. Decoy carvers Lem Ward and Chris Sprague were there. Pam and Armand Carney started it. When the historic Carlton House burned down, the Carney’s moved the show to the Tuckerton Beach community center.

“It was a swap meet,” said Allen. They had them a couple of years and then it went away. We didn’t have another show until we started the Decoy Show.”

Allen has also served on the board of the Barnegat Bay Decoy and Baymen’s Museum (Tuckerton Seaport) from the very beginning. “The main reason it was started was to have a place to educate the kids on the way of the baymen; not just duck hunting, but clamming, oystering, fishing.”

The museum was started in 1991 and opened in 1993. It was an outgrowth of the Decoy Show and was built entirely by volunteers. The Museum was such a success that a bigger project was envisioned and the Tuckerton Seaport opened in 2000.

Allen was born August 25, 1954. He has deep family roots in Tuckerton and West Creek. His parents Elizabeth (Betty) and James Allen lived on Lakeside Drive. The old Allen homestead was on Main Street, Tuckerton. His Great Uncle Russell owned Horner’s Grocery and his Great Uncle Nelson had the adjoining garage.

It was a meeting in this very same garage (but now owned by Claude Stevens) that started Allen on his decoy-collecting trajectory. Decoy maker, early collector and duck hunter John Hillman would stop at the gas pumps to fill up his duck boat before heading out to bay.

“I couldn’t have been more than 16 or 17 when I met John Hillman. I had my hip boots on, and he started a conversation—‘You like duck hunting—know where there are any wooden decoys?’

“I said, ‘—oh yeah, my dad has a bunch.’ He wrote his number down and I lost it.

“Than I was cleaning one of the old duck shanty’s on Middle Island and found a sack of wooden decoys. I was told I could have them because the guys didn’t want them. I could take them if I substituted cork ones. So I took them home.

“I had Mom look up his John’s number—I called him and he stopped by. He said, ‘—Oh these are nice’—Course, I didn’t know anything. He offered me \$25 a piece and I just about fainted.

“I had five of them and, here’s the cool part, he said, ‘I’ll take four of them but you keep one. That started me collecting.

“Three years later we’re at the waterfowl show in Easton, Maryland. I’m sitting with John at his table and a guy walks up and John pulls out one of those black ducks.

“That was Russell Hurtz and he says, ‘I’ll take it. Well, he reaches in his pocket and out comes a roll of hundreds. He paid \$300 for it. The gentlemen goes away and Johnny turns to me and says, ‘So, Jim, did you learn anything?’”

John Hillman was to mentor Allen from the first day he sold him the black ducks by Captain Jesse Birdsall. “I’d be getting decoys and he’d say, ‘Keep this one and sell that one.’

“After he passed, his collection was sold for over \$5 million in 1996.”

Allen treasures a decoy from Hillman’s personal gunning rig. “John was a hunter. I took him duck hunting one day and he wanted to use all his old decoys to hunt over. I was afraid they’d get ruined by shot but he said ‘—don’t worry about it Jim, that’s what they are for.’”



*John Holloway judging Fish Decoys, 1999.
Photo Credit: Ocean County Parks*

JOHN R. HOLLOWAY:

Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show **MICHAEL T. MANGUM** *HALL OF FAME*

by Grove Conrad & Michael T. Mangum

John Holloway has been an integral part of this Show since it's 1983 beginning; it is fitting that this Hall of Fame (HOF) award follows the Michael T. Mangum's inaugural HOF award at last year's show. Holloway's name was already in the running when Mangum, the namesake of the award and founder of the show, insisted Holloway be the next to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

In 1983, Mr. Mangum enlisted John to develop the original contest rules and from that initial show Mr. Holloway has not only been on the show committee but served as a contest judge, supervised countless head whittling events and has donated his original carvings for awards and raffles. John was the author of the Barnegat Bay & Delaware River Decoy Contests, the essential essence of the show. He advocated for the Fish Decoy Contest and was a judge for many years. He made the original fish decoy judging stick and it became a yearly ritual as John would bring it from home and unveil it before the judging. John rarely ever missed a show meeting and did whatever was necessary to continually improve the show.

John always promoted the idea of adding as many facets to the show as possible to attract a wider audience including families. Show coordinator Mike Mangum listened to that advice and the show grew exponentially. The show was always intended to be more than just decoys. At its peak, the show was attracting over 450,000 visitors and 600 vendors at Tip Seaman County Park, Pinelands High School & Middle School, the Tuckerton First Aid Building and the Tuckerton Seaport.

John Holloway was born in Haddonfield, New Jersey in September 1935, almost to the day ninety years ago. As a young man he spent considerable time at his father's Parkertown house doing those "gunning" things boys do along the bay learning from old fashioned baymen such as Harlan Price, Bill Thomas and Pete Peterson. During those early years in Parkertown, hanging out at Jay Parker's shop and watching Parker make all manner of decoys and whimsical carvings would be a beginning for 70 years of John producing some of New Jersey's finest folk-art.

Besides being a world class decoy carver John along with his nephew Jeff Holloway began building sneakboxes. John, Jeff & Mike would travel to the Philadelphia Maritime Museum to the Workshop on the water. One October day Curator Roger Allen asked the 3 of them to help sail the museums small craft fleet down the Delaware River from Pyne Point to winter headquarters in Philadelphia. As it turned out, it was mischief night and the group barely got back to Pyne Point to leave the City before 133 fire calls were put in that night.

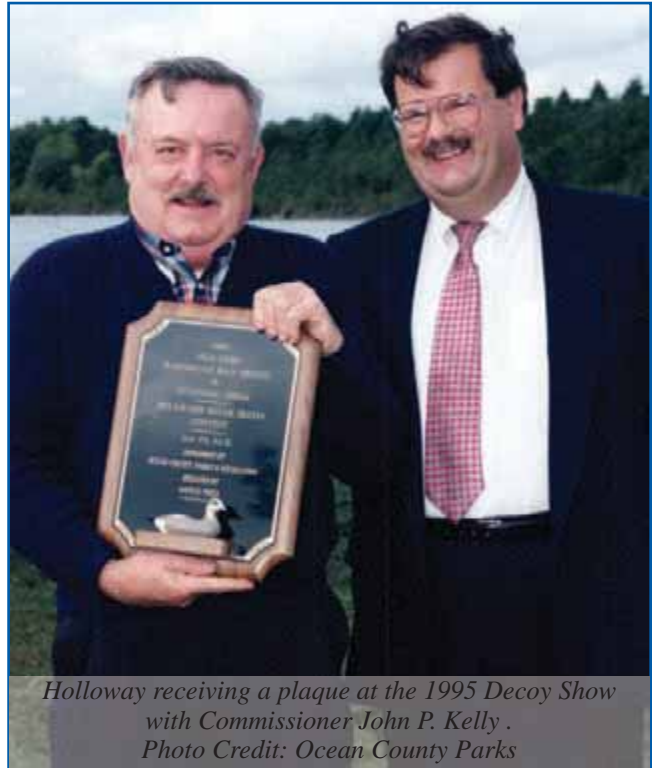
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Holloway's Ecoley Mortuary College degree led to a state mortician's license then funeral director for Jeffries and Keats of Atlantic City. There, in Atlantic City, he met Ruth Sheppard, the nurse daughter of Atlantic City's well-known Doctor Sheppard – they would marry and produce son Bret and daughter Robin. Following his AC years, John opened his own funeral home along the Delaware in Florence NJ. Being in the business of dying, most of the clients never returned. So, John sold the business and returned to the Parkertown of his youth and there became a full-time bayman and maker of award-winning decoys. His Burton Drive shop not only produced decoys, and all manner of bird carvings but also showcased his signature bird trees. He built a shop and raised finches, along with the attendant mice, and installed an old barber's chair where he sat while the chips flew. From that old barber's chair he, like Jay Parker before him, gave impromptu lessons and his skill sets were passed on to a score of present-day decoy carvers. According to Holloway: "I had no secrets and shared what I did."

During those "Barber Chair" years fellow Barnegat Bay decoy makers Tom Rider, Jim West and Herb Miller became friendly competition and from these friendships developed a unique Jersey "school-of-style"; whereupon countless ribbons and honors were gathered by all four men. For many years, John refused the Hurley Conklin award because of the "Conklin Curse." He believed if you got the award you wouldn't live long.

Show founder Mike Mangum recounted, "According to John Holloway, if you were given a Hurley Conklin Award, it was a death sentence. You were going to be gone in a year or two as soon as you got this award. He didn't take into account that most of these people were in their 80s and 90s. But according to John, it was the Conklin curse and he refused to take the Conklin award for many, many years. Finally, he got old enough where I guess it didn't matter so he took the Conklin award. He's still here but he questioned the impact on his mother's death. She was in her 90s."

Finally, Holloway agreed to accept the time-honored Conklin Award in 2010 and has beaten the odds to enter into the 2016 the New Jersey Decoy Collectors Hall of Fame and has earned the ultimate prize, this year's *The Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy and Gunning Show Hall of Fame Award*. We are proud to induct Mr. John R. Holloway into the class of 2025.



*Holloway receiving a plaque at the 1995 Decoy Show
with Commissioner John P. Kelly .
Photo Credit: Ocean County Parks*

New Jersey Ducks Unlimited Waterfowl Party
Saturday, September 27 at the Red Men Lodge
143 Main Street, Tuckerton
Doors Open at 5 PM - Dinner Starts at 6 PM
For Tickets and More Information Contact:
Ben Lines BLINES@Ducks.org at 262-442-3473

31st Annual Pine Barrens Jamboree

FREE! Saturday, October 11 10am - 4:30pm
Wells Mills County Park in Waretown



Brought to you by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners Robert S. Arace – Chairman of Parks and Recreation
Jennifer Bacchione, Virginia E. Haines, John P. Kelly, Frank Sadeghi



Harry M. Shourds Heritage Award

The Harry M. Shourds Heritage Award can be viewed as essentially the posthumous Hurley Conklin Award, which is presented to people who have lived in the Barnegat Bay tradition. The Conklin award was named in honor of one of the last of the Great Old Time Barnegat Bay Carvers still living at the time of the first Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy and Gunning Show, Hurley Conklin. 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.

Harry M. Shourds was the son of the prolific carver Harry V. Shourds and father of the famed carver and Hurley Conklin Awardee Harry V. Shourds III. The Decoy Show Committee decided to name this Heritage Award in honor of the late Harry Mitchell Shourds of Ocean City, New Jersey for his contributions as a decoy carver and for carrying on the traditions of the Barnegat Bay and New Jersey decoy carving through the generations.



Harry Mitchell Shourds, 1919.
Photo Credit: Tuckerton Seaport

HARRY M. SHOURDS:

Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show **THE HARRY M. SHOURDS HERITAGE AWARD**

by J.P. Hand

The name Shourds has been a household word in the decoy collecting community for as long as Americans have been collecting and preserving the painted wooden gunning decoys of the early carvers.

Harry Vinuckson Shourds of Tuckerton N. J. was likely the first of that family to carve lightweight, hollow “stool ducks” of the native Atlantic White Cedar, (also known as swamp cedar or Jersey cedar).

Harry V. is known not just for the artistic merit and quality of construction of his decoys, but also for the large numbers of decoys he produced. He was one of the few if not the only maker who shipped his decoys up and down the east coast as far south as the Carolinas.

A carpenter by trade, H. V. Shourds and his wife, Mary Bartholomew Shourds had three daughters and one son. That son, Harry Mitchell Shourds would follow in his father’s footsteps when it came to carving decoys, though he worked as a house painter and painting contractor for most of his life.

Harry Mitchell Shourds holds the distinction of being a native son of Tuckerton but also the best-known carver of Cape May County. He learned to carve with his father on Water Street down on Tuckerton Creek and used his father’s carving patterns throughout his life. The 1910 Federal Census for Tuckerton lists 48-year-old H V Shourds as a house carpenter and Harry M. age 19 as a house painter.

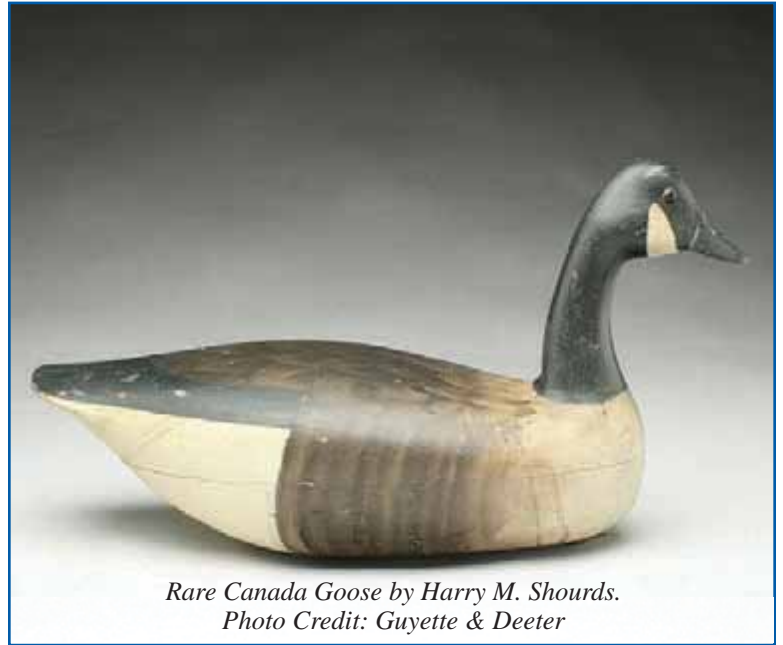
Ten years later, H. M. Shourds was living in Ocean City down in Cape May County and was married to Lenneta Loder Shourds, he owned his own home and was working as a house painter in that Cape May County beach town, (1920 Fed Census). Sadly, his wife Lenneta passed away, childless and in 1923 the widower would marry Martha Clemenson, a South Jersey girl from over on the mainland, whose father had emigrated from Sweden, her mother from Denmark. The couple would have four children, Virginia, Alvin, my friend and mentor Harry V. and the youngest, Ray.

H. M. would spend the rest of his life in Cape May County running his painting contracting business and like his father, carving decoys and shipping them to eager customers locally and out of state. Like his father and many men of that time, he would die at a relatively young age; towards the end of WWII in 1944 at the age of 52. During the decades he lived in Ocean City, Harry M. made lots of friends both on the mainland and the island where he likely

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knew many of the local Cape May County carvers of his time, such as Clark Madara, the Godfreys of the Upper Township, and Cleave Daebler to the south, who lived on the road into Stone Harbor. And like his father, he surely influenced a lot of other men of the county who made their own gunning decoys.

It isn't known at this time as to which East coast waterfowler first thought to make a decoy with a hollow two-piece body made of light weight softwood. That method was common on both the Delaware River and the Jersey coast by the mid 1800s. H. V. Shourds likely didn't come up with that construction technique, as quite a few South Jersey carvers predate him. What he did do was create a carving style of light weight, well-constructed gunning decoys with stylized paint patterns that were pleasing to the eye.



*Rare Canada Goose by Harry M. Shourds.
Photo Credit: Guyette & Deeter*

Harry M. Shourds carried on the family tradition, using his father's patterns, his tools and painting techniques. To the untrained eye, the decoys of both the father and the son appear the same, but a knowledgeable collector can tell the difference. Harry M. decoys are usually a little "daintier" in form. Both men made decoys of the typical species of ducks used along the Atlantic coast, mostly Black Ducks, Broadbills, Brant, but also some Red Breasted Mergansers, Goldeneyes, Buffleheads and Old Squaws. Only Harry M. is known to have carved Pintails and Hooded Mergansers. While Harry V. likely made hundreds of shorebird decoys a various species, very few are known to have been made by Harry M. That may be explained by the fact that hunting shorebirds was outlawed in the United States right in the middle of his carving career.

The number decoys by both Harry V. and Harry M. Shourds that survive to this day stands as a testament to the skill and artistry of both men. Not to mention the innumerable other carvers up and down the East coast who copied their work in varying degrees.

One historical and genealogical note: It appears that all the Shourds of South Jersey descend from one Cornelius Shoyerde, (later anglicized to Shourds) who in 1684 left Holland for Philadelphia, bought a plantation in Bordentown, N. J. and with his wife raised a large family. Their descendants would spread out across South Jersey with some settling in Tuckerton, (when it was in Burlington County) and others settling near the Delaware River in Salem County.

Visit Presentation Tent
Continuous Programs During Both Days
(Check easel outside tent)
Documentaries, Demonstrations & Displays

Special Exhibits:
Saturday: Harry M. Shourds
Sunday: Ruben C. Corlies



Ruben Claude Corlies.
Photo Credit: Grove Conrad

RUBEN C. CORLIES:

Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show **THE HARRY M. SHOURDS HERITAGE AWARD**

by Grove Conrad and Doug Lynch

There are in every generation people who define their era – such a man was Ruben C. Corlies. Ruben had stories and his stories had stories; “Rube” the central character of those stories.

There are quite a few spellings of Corlis (iss) (ies) in Manahawkin but most agree that Ruben Claude’s family name was Corlies. Ruben’s Corlies ancestors were well-to-do landowners in Shrewsbury,

Monmouth County as early as 1680. Generations later found Ruben’s father, Amos, working at various sawmills in Chatsworth, Warren Grove and Barnegat, finally moving to Manahawkin with his wife Rachael about 1880. Rube was born in Manahawkin in 1882. Rube’s father died in 1892 of typhoid fever leaving Ruben, age 10, with his mother and seven brothers and sisters. Rube would remain in Manahawkin until his death in 1976 at age 94. School ended for Ruben in the 8th grade working for 25 cents a day helping to support his family. He worked six days a week clamming, oystering and as a carpenter’s apprentice. Then he would walk on Saturdays to Perrine’s Boat Works in Barnegat building sneakboxes under the watchful eye of a Perrine foreman, Levi Cranmer. Seventy years later Rube was still building his improved design sneakboxes and made, by his own account, “at least a hundred.” Those boats were used by a score of bay gunning clubs, some still in use today.

The Lifesaving Service became a major part of the Rube’s life. He served many years with stations Brigantine, Barnegat City, Cedar Creek and Loveladies. In a 1974 interview at age 92 Rube recalled as if it were yesterday the names of his Loveladies 1912 crew – Wes Peterson, James Mills, Howard Falkinburg, the Ridgway brothers and Captain Cooper Predmore. He left the Life Saving Service about 1917 during the First World War to build barracks for the Army at Fort Dix.

Ruben married Ella Bodine Lear in 1906, their only son Beverly Earl was born in 1907; the family moved to a house and carriage barn on Manahawkin’s Stafford Avenue and there Ruben remained until his death. As a first rate carpenter he built the Carvel Island Gun Club, made hundreds of the club’s decoys and built the club’s many sneakboxes. Ruben was the guide for that club for almost twenty years.

Good friends and neighbors would call him “Uncle Rube” and on any given day they could be found in his shop, converted from an old carriage house, listening to his stories as he made decoys and boats. Those stories and that work would make him the legend that this award honors.

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Favorite and often repeated tales would be the story of the sea serpent; an account of Rube and his brother-in-law John Inman encountering a sea creature offshore fishing in 1906– that story has often been written and also reenacted in Beach Haven’s Surfflight Theater a dozen years ago.

Then there were the gunning stories; including the days that Rube took “The Babe” duck shooting...in his own words:

“I, as guide of Carvel Island Gunning Club, will class Mr. Hunt and the Babe Ruth as gunners and good shots, and Mr. Johnny Vandermeer is very good with his aim on a duck as well as on home plate – Party Killed 32 head - Ruben Corlies” Oct. 1942



*Ruben Corlies and Sneakbox.
Photo Credit: Ocean County*

Mr. Hunt was the famous artist Lynn Bogue Hunt and Vandermeer the Cincinnati pitcher who still holds major league records.

“Uncle Rube” left a legacy of goodness. We remember another legendary bayman and decoy maker, Bill Cranmer (1917-2008), saying of Rueben: “He would talk to you even up as a peer and that’s why I liked going to his shop.” Ruben C. Corlies is buried in the Old Baptist Cemetery; with a simple headstone – no epitaph - but it would be fitting to imagine on that stone the Rudyard Kipling epitaph of “*E Done It All.*”

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/>

2025 Show Print Artist Profile



Ruddy Duck.

Photo Credit: Gibson Family

Mark J. Gibson, this year's featured artist, is an engineer and professional land surveyor. His engineering background provided the understanding of perspective and mechanical drafting. He studied with the accomplished artist, Stan Sperlak, of Crow Creek Farm, who taught him how to apply color. Mark paints primarily with Terry Ludwig pastels. He prefers plein air painting of landscapes, seascapes, marsh scenes and all that God created.

This particular painting was a challenge as Ocean County Parks and Recreation Department commissioned a painting with the historical element of the

Pennsylvania Railroad trestle across the Toms River with Island Heights in the background and of course this year's featured duck, the ruddy duck. Fortunately, summer plumage was agreed upon.

Of course, the railroad trestle which helped bring the common man to the Toms River seashore is long gone.

He also chose to paint the existing homes along the shore at Island Heights in hopes that the current residents can pick out their homes and enjoy that aspect of the painting.

Mark grew up and still lives in Cape May County with his wife, Maureen. Early days included duck hunting on the Sea Isle marsh before high school and on weekends. Deer hunting and stripers fishing were also early pursuits.

In addition to his painting, he enjoys Sunday family dinners and all the time he devotes to his large family, as well as woodworking, decoy collecting, fly fishing with his brother and sailing in the ocean offshore of Sea Isle with his best friend and wife, Maureen. He is lay leader of South Seaville United Methodist Church.

He wishes to thank Jamie Hand, friend, historian and master decoy carver for his assistance in Mark J. Gibson receiving the honor of the commission for this year's painting. Gibson's print is on display at the Tips Seaman Community Center.



Mark J. Gibson.

Photo Credit: Gibson Family

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 Falkenburg, 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, 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

Upcoming Barnegat Bay Folklife Programming

Ocean County Parks & Recreation

For program availability or a newsletter with full descriptions please call:
1-877-OC PARKS (627-2757) Toll Free or visit oceancountyparks.org

Cloverdale Farm's Plein Air Weekend

LOCATION: Entire Park, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, September 5 - Sunday, September 7 at 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Friday, October 3 - Sunday, October 5 at 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Friday, November 7 - Sunday, November 9 at 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

FEE: Free

AGES: All, Children must be accompanied by an adult

Cranberry Ramble & Pick

LOCATION: Pavilion, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Saturday, September 6, 7 & 14, October 12 at 2:00 - 3:00 PM

September 20 & 21, October 4 & 5 at 10:00 - 11:00 AM

FEE: \$6.00 per person

AGES: All, Children must be accompanied by an adult

Indian Corn (Weaving)

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, September 19 at 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

FEE: \$5.00 plus **\$60.00 in exact change to cover instructor fees and material costs.**

AGES: Adult

NEW! Colonial Roots: Dig into Printmaking with Root Vegetables!

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat

DATE: Thursday, October 2 at 2:00 - 3:00 PM

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGES: All, Children must be accompanied by an adult

2D Felting: Ghost

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Saturday, October 11 at 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

FEE: \$5.00 plus \$25 in exact change to cover instructor fees. You will need to bring your tool kit if you attend class before or you can purchase one the day of class for \$25.

AGES: Adult

NEW! Spooky Story Time: Legend of the Jersey Devil

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat

DATE: Sunday, October 12 at 1:00 - 3:00 PM

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGES: 7 - 10 years, Children must be accompanied by an adult

Single Wine Basket

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, October 17 at 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

FEE: \$5.00 plus **\$60.00 in exact change the day of class for the instructor & materials.**

AGES: Adult

Upcoming Barnegat Bay Folklife Programming

Ocean County Parks & Recreation

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Make Your Own Magic Wand

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Sunday, October 19 at 12:00 - 3:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 plus **\$30.00 in cash or check payable to instructor Brad Koller.**
AGES: 8 Years - Adult, Children must be accompanied by an adult

Wooly Pine Tree (Felting)

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Wednesday, October 22 at 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 **plus \$55.00 in exact change the day of class for the instructor fees & material costs.**
AGES: Adult

NEW! Dream Catcher Weaving

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Saturday, November 9 at 2:00 - 3:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 plus **\$25.00 in exact cash or check payable to instructor Ty "Dancing Wolf" Ellis.**
AGES: 12 Years - Adult, Children must be accompanied by an adult

NEW! Make Your Own Lenape - Jackstraw Game

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Thursday, November 13 at 1:00 - 3:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 per person
AGES: 5 & Up, Children must be accompanied by an adult

Nesting Footstools

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Friday, November 14 at 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 plus **pre-paying instructor \$175 for material costs and instruction fees in advance of class.**
AGES: Adult

Shorebird Decoy: Dunlin

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Tuesday, November 16 & November 23 at 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 per person **plus \$90.00 in exact change for the instructor & material the first day of class.**
AGES: Adult

Wheat Weaving: Wreath

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Tuesday, November 18 at 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 **plus \$25.00 in exact change for instructor fees & material costs.**
AGES: 15 Years - Adult

Decoy Painting Skills

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Friday, November 21 at 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 **plus \$45.00 in exact change for the instructor & materials.**
AGES: Adult

Upcoming Barnegat Bay Folklife Programming

Ocean County Parks & Recreation

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1-877-OC PARKS (627-2757) Toll Free or visit oceancountyparks.org

Christmas Stocking Basket

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Friday, December 5 at 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 plus **\$65.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**
AGES: Adult

2D Felting: Winter Scene

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Sunday, December 7 at 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
September 20 & 21, October 4 & 5 at 10:00 - 11:00 AM
FEE: \$5.00 plus **\$25.00 in exact change to cover instructor fees. You will need to bring your tool kit if you attend class before or you can purchase one on the day of class for \$25.00.**
AGES: Adult

Wheat Weaving: Harp

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Saturday, December 13 at 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 plus **\$24.00 in exact change to cover instructor fees and material costs.**
AGES: 15 Years - Adult

Snowman (Felting)

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Sunday, December 14 at 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
FEE: \$5.00 plus **\$25.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**
AGES: 8 Years - Adult, Children must be accompanied by an adult

Holiday Centerpiece

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Saturday, December 20 at 9:30 - 11:30 AM
FEE: \$5.00 plus **\$30.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**
AGES: Adult

43rd Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show

Sat.-Sun. September 27 & 28, 2025

JOIN US!



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

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

Family Fun Tent

- Play decoy & boat games - learn how you can become a folk artist, too!
- 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

Baseball Field

- Take aim with Archery
- Sing along to live musical performances

War at the Shore Trailer

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

Tuckerton Seaport

- Enjoy guided boat tours on Tuckerton Creek
- View new Exhibits
- Arts and Crafts

Heritage & Presentation Tent

- Special exhibit on Harry M. Shourds & Reuben Corlies
- Clamming by hand game
- Watch presentations & movies

Community Center

- Enter & watch Art & Photo Contests
- Visit new exhibit with short - movies & art display
- Weave paper cup baskets

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



Brought to you by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners
Commissioner Robert S. Arace, Chairman
Ocean County Parks & Recreation
Mary Jane Bavais - Director



Jumping in Jersey

Tuckerton, NJ



Saturday September 27

onsite Registration/Practice 8:00am
Big Air #1 9:00am
Big Air #2 10:00am
Big Air #3 12:00am
Extreme vertical 2:30pm
Big Air #4 4:30pm
Big Air #5 5:30pm

Sunday September 28

onsite Reg/Practice 8:00am
Big Air #6 9:00am
Big Air #7 10:30am
Big Air #8 12:30pm
Speed Retrieve 2:30pm
Big Air Finals 4:30pm



Mention Delmarva DockDogs
at Atlantic Shore Pines
Campground for 15% off your
booking for the weekend!

September 27-28th

2025

Delmarva Dockdogs

president.delmarvadockdogs@gmail.com



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



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

NEW JERSEY
Historical
COMMISSION

Supported in part by a grant from the
New Jersey Historical Commission

Plans for Tuckerton
Seaport's
25th Anniversary
Have Begun!

New! John Updike: Bringing the
Barnegat Bay Style Up
The Mullica Exhibit

Tuckerton Seaport:
A Museum in the Making
Exhibit

Coming Soon!
This is the Place Exhibit

25 Free Community Events

Guest Guided Creek Tours



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
Amanda Truhan
Tim Hart
Catherine McLearen,
Alexandra Smith
Andrea Sauchelli

Show Committee Volunteers

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

Special Thanks

We thank the many volunteers who helped in making the 2025 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.

2025 Prize Donors

Retriever Contest Prizes Donated by:
Ocean County Parks & Recreation
Navesink River Hunting Retriever Club

World Championship Duck Calling Contest

A special thanks to New Jersey waterfowlers for sponsoring the 2025 New Jersey State Duck Calling Championship's participation in the 2025 World Championship at Stuttgart, Arkansas, in November

Join Us Next Year For The 2026 Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show

September 26 & 27 2026,
Tuckerton, NJ

**On The Cover:
The Ruddy Duck by
George Strunk**



NEW JERSEY DECOY COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

32nd Annual
Decoy, Art & Hunting
Collectibles Show and Sale

"BEST OLD DECOY SHOW IN NEW JERSEY"



SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

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

- ♦ **2026 FEATURED CARVER -**
Terrence "Terry" McNulty
- ♦ ARTIFACT DISPLAY by Bob Seabrook
- ♦ FREE DECOY APPRAISALS
- ♦ DECOY Crafts conducted by the Ocean
County Cultural & Heritage Commission
- ♦ "OLD BIRD" DECOY CONTEST
- ♦ FOOD & DRINK in the Campus Center

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
OLD BIRD CONTEST - Jim Thompson
609-338-7574

Save the Date!

2026

"Old Time" Barnegat Bay

Decoy and Gunning Show

September 26 & 27, 2026



Brought to you by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners
Commissioner Robert S. Arace, Chairman
Ocean County Parks & Recreation
Mary Jane Davis, Director

Stanley H. “Tip” Seaman County Park

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



Ocean County Board of Commissioners

Robert S. Arace
Chairman of Parks and Recreation
Jennifier Bacchione
Virginia E. Haines
John P. Kelly
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*