



A Passion for the Preservation of the Barnegat Bay Waterfowling Heritage

been the driving force behind this event through the years…Mike Mangum. In 1983 Mike, then a Park Naturalist, and a handful of volunteers, got together and organized the first Decoy Show.

It was a perfect fit. Mike who had always had a strong interest in decoys and the waterfowling heritage, took the reins and helped the show grow from 35 exhibitors and 10 contests to 325 exhibitors and 64 contests.

Mike has been steadfast in maintaining the quality of the event by striving to ensure that this show would hold true to its original ideals and continue to emphasize traditional waterfowling skills such as decoy carving, boat building, retrieving, shooting etc.

25 years later, Mike, now Director of the Ocean County Parks Department, although more hands off regarding the day to day planning, is still very involved in the show. He has dedicated countless hours to ensure the success of the event and has much to be proud of. This show is highly regarded and often referred to as one of the best decoy shows on the East Coast bringing in attendance numbers as great as 25,000 people. So as we celebrate 25 years of the Ocean County Decoy & Gunning Show we thank Mike for his years of dedication and desire to preserve and promote the Barnegat Bay waterfowling heritage.