

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 striper 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.

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