

1976 world championship

WILDFOWL CARVING COMPETITION

Salisbury, Maryland

CHAIRMAN — Knute Bartrug

VICE-CHAIRMAN — Fred Kreiser

CONTEST COMMITTEE

Jean Bartrug, Enid Kreiser, Charles Bounds, Max Hughes, Ted Crockett, Tom George, Harvey Derby, Marshall Moore, Joe Gilbert, Vince Schumacher, Bob Farlow, Pete Vigneri and a great many volunteers.

PROFESSIONAL DECOY JUDGES DECORATIVE LIFESIZE

Harold Haertel	Hal Sorensen	Anthony Rudisill
Guy Greenwell	John Griswald	Marie Conway
Malcolm Flemming		John Sutton

AMATEUR & NOVICE

Russel Van Houzen
Don Allen
George Walker

DECORATIVE

George Rieger
Bill Schultz
Charles Vaughn

LEM & STEVE SHOOTIN' STOOL JUDGES

Preliminary		Final
Bill Joeckel	Knute Bartrug	Lem Ward
Hal Sorensen	Ken Gleason	Paul Marshall
Paul Casson		"Corb" Reed

PAUL SHAFER MEMORIAL HEAD WHITTLING CONTEST

1. J.B. Garton
2. Cigar Daisey
3. Russ Van Houzen
H.M. Ron Rue, Pat Godin &
Bob Brophy

BEST CARVED & PAINTED CANVASBACK

Jim Foote
Bob Havel
Fred Traver

FOR THE RECORD

111 Professional Carvers with 476 Carvings
94 Amateur Carvers with 413 Carvings
146 Novice Carvers with 404 Carvings
93 Shootin' Stool Carvings
38 States Represented



(continued on page 36)

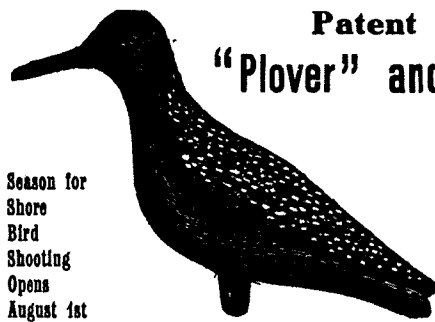
OLD DECOY AD — Courtesy of Willis G. Pennington

The American Field

19 August 1911

Patent Folding Tin "Plover" and "Snipe" Decoys

Season for
Shore
Bird
Shooting
Opens
August 1st



These decoys are made of two oval-shaped parts or sections, which, when closed together, make the exact form of the bird. They pack or nest one into another, so that a box containing one dozen measures only 10 in. by 9 in. and 1/4 in. deep; are nicely painted to represent the bird.

Varieties made: Black-breasted Plover, Green Plover, Red-breasted Plover, Turnstone or Chicken Plover and Yellowleg Snipe.
Prices for Plover, \$4 per dozen; Yellowleg, \$4.50. Discount to the trade. Ask your dealer for them.

WM. READ & SONS
107 Washington St. Boston

ESTABLISHED 1826
Importers and Dealers in High Grade Guns, Fishing Tackle, Camp
Outfits, Field and Marine Glasses, etc., etc.

Send for Catalogues, also list of Second-Hand Guns



5-6 e 8

"A YOUNG MAN CRAZY ABOUT MAKING DECOYS"

BILL CONROY of narragansett bay

By Jackson L. Parker

Color Photography by Eugene Hirshberg

As I travel about New England talking to carvers, I am struck not only by the diversity of styles but also by the different reasons they took up carving.

Take Bill Conroy of Rhode Island for example. As a duck hunter, he is a purist preferring to shoot over wood decoys rather than plastic. When he went to a local carver for a new rig, he decided he could do better himself, and he did.

To test the decoys he made, he set them out in the water and threw bread to them, attracting two black ducks who landed among them and began feeding.

Not only did this give him a feeling of accomplishment, but it also produced a satisfaction known only to hunters who carve their own decoys and call in their own birds.

At that time, in 1970, Bill thought he was unique being completely unaware that he was in the midst of a renaissance of decoy carving. He never would have known otherwise if disaster hadn't struck.

He was by trade a welder in his home town of Pawtucket and developed an occupational illness. When the doctor ordered him to quit work if he wanted to keep on living, he moved his family (wife Sue and five children) to the beautiful island of Jamestown at the mouth of Narragansett Bay and began carving decoys for those local hunters who also preferred wood to plastic.

It wasn't long before his talent was discovered by the nearby biologists and conservation officers of the Great Swamp Management Area of the Rhode Island Division of Natural Resources. They brought him ducks and skins as models for the carvings they ordered, and more important, they freely criticized the technicalities of wings, bills, heads and other details until he got them right.

Catching the carving fever known as the desire to create the perfect decoy, he looked for expert aid, especially in painting, and found it in Holger Smith of Mattapoisett, Massachusetts (see NAD, Fall 1974). This is another thing that struck me, namely the way carvers freely trade information, helping each other the way Holger helped Bill, and ultimately profit when the student progresses to the level where he can give his teacher a few pointers.

The Conroy technique is to make working decoys of solid sugar pine unless a request is made to make them hollow. All decoratives are hollowed out and made of basswood. He puts on the vermiculations with a fountain pen. When a hunter buys a rig from Bill, he gets the decoys in different positions so they look natural. He is getting orders for decoratives but still turns out working decoys to share the pleasure of shooting over wooden stools.

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DECORATIVE DUCKS

MARSH DUCKS

	Professional	Amateur	Novice
MALLARD			
1.	Jack Hahn	John Gewerth	James Shink
2.	Jack Hahn	Rich Krohe	George Murray
3.	Jack Hahn	N. Williams	Doug Epps
H.M.	Randy Tull	A. Gallinat	Doug Epps
	C. Hollestolle	N. Williams	
	R. Stutheit		

BLACK DUCK

1.	Jack Hahn	N. Williams	Jerry Hartman
2.	Jay Polite	Bob McGuire	George Murray
3.	Ken Ingram	Fred Muhs	Joe Hall
H.M.	Bill Rose	J. Trabuchi	E. Kless
		Rich Krohe	S. James
		W. Weeks	

PINTAIL

1.	Bill Schultz	Jim Sprankle	Sharon James
2.	Jay Polite	Rich Krohe	C. Chamberie
3.	Len Carnaghi	Wm. Perry	S. Hutchins
H.M.	M. Clark	W. Sutor	L. Swientek

GREEN-WINGED TEAL

1.	Tom Pitzen	Walter Watson	Elphege Brunet
2.	Tan Brunet	D. Bernier	Lou Swientek
3.	R. Van Houzen	Wm. Sutor	George Peyton
H.M.	Jack Franco	N. Williams	J. Haker

BLUE-WINGED TEAL

1.	Tom Pitzen	Jim Sprankle	Joe Miller
2.	Jack Hahn	Wm. Sutor	M. Deschamps
3.	Bill Schultz	Wm. Sutor	Noel Harman
H.M.		J. Gewerth	B. Chatelain

CINNAMON TEAL

1.	Dick Lemaster	Jim Sprankle	David Inslay
2.	Don Zueg	John Gewerth	Tom Birch
3.		Marv Anderson	Tom Birch

SHOVELER

1.	Bob Havel	Jim Sprankle	Steve Miller
2.	Ken Scheeler	Bob Peterson	Steve Miller
3.	R. Van Houzen	John Gewerth	Bernie Hopkins
H.M.	T. Pitzen		M. Siedden

WIDGEON

1.	Jim Foote	Louis Kean	Ron Snow
2.	Jack Hahn	Barton Walter	Doug Clinton
3.	Tom Newell	Louis Kean	Bob Abbel
H.M.		W. Hart	

GADWALL

1.	Bill Schultz	Wm. Perry	Doug Clinton
2.	Ken Ingram	Wm. Sutor	
3.	Pat Godin	Pete Vigneri	
H.M.	J.B. Garton		

WOOD DUCK

1.	C. Hollestolle	Rich Krohe	Glen Ornsby
2.	Jack Hahn	Wm. Sutor	B. Kauppila
3.	Fred Traver	Jim Sprankle	Lou Swientek
H.M.	Fred Traver	J. James	J. Chatham
		W. Perry	S. James

BEST IN CATEGORY - MARSH DUCKS

1.	Jim Foote,	Jim Sprankle,	Joe Miller,
	Widgeon,	Shoveler,	B.W. Teal
2.	Jack Hahn,	Jim Sprankle,	Steve Miller,
	Black Duck,	Pintail,	Shoveler
3.	Bill Schultz,	Walter Watson,	James Shink,
	Pintail,	G.W. Teal	Mallard

DIVING DUCKS

	Professional	Amateur	Novice
BUFFLEHEAD			
1.	Tom Shunate	J. Trabuchi	M. Pierce
2.	Tom Shunate	J. Trabuchi	Wm. Sharp
3.	Dan Brown	Norm Williams	Doug Clinton
H.M.	R. Guge	R. Walsh	W. Pierce
	R. Tull	W. Weeks	E. Arnold

CANVASBACK

1.	Bob Havel	J. Trabuchi	George Murray
2.	Bob Havel	Norm Williams	W. Tittsworth
3.	Bob Franta	Jim O'Neil	Tom Harrison
H.M.	Jim Foote	J. O'Neil	W. Tittsworth
	J. Hahn		L. Swientek

REDHEAD

1.	Fred Traver	Bob McGuire	C. Van Note
2.	Bob Havel	Carl Addison	Louis Swientek
3.	Randy Tull	Carl Addison	H.H. Veasey
H.M.	B. Schultz	N. Williams	
	G. Rose		

EIDER

1.	Ron Tapley	John Mulak	Bernie Hopkins
2.	Joe Rivello		
3.	R. Van Houzen		

SCOTER

1.	Ken Gleason	A.M. Warden	
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2.	C. Miller	Jack Tierney	
3.	R. Van Houzen	Tom Gamble	
H.M.		Vernon Berg	

GOLDENEYE

1.	Ken Gleason	Glen Burdette	M. Deschamps
2.	J.B. Garton	John Chobrada	E. Arnold
3.	T. Beardsley	John Chobrada	George Bigby
H.M.	R. Franta	J. Gewerth	S. Miller
		W. Jones	

RUDDY DUCK

1.	Hans Bolte	Bill Suenkel	M. Deschamps
2.	Bob Havel	Bob Angerman	Steve Miller
3.	Hans Bolte	Walter Watson	Mike Siedden
H.M.	T. Beardsley	W. Suenkel	

SCAUP

1.	Ken Scheeler	J. Trabuchi	George Murry
2.	Randy Tull	Bob McGuire	James Shink
3.	Randy Tull	J. Trabuchi	L. Swientek
H.M.	G. Rose	W. Perry	C. Van Note
	L. Carnaghi	W. Suenkel	

RINGNECK

1.	Bob Havel	Jim Sprankle	Al Dreschen
2.	Ken Scheeler	John Gewerth	Tolliver Oden
3.	Don Zueg	Bob Angerman	John Glennon
H.M.		N. Walsh	E. Ferderinic
		W. Suenkel	

AMERICAN MERGANSER

1.	Charlie Green	Jim O'Neil	
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HOODED MERGANSER

1.	Ken Gleason	Wayne Weeks	Michael Pierce
2.	T. Beardsley	Wayne Weeks	George Rigby
3.	Bill Schultz	Bob McGuire	M. Pierce
H.M.	T. Beardsley	W.B. Walter	E. Marshall
		P. Vinerl	S. Hutchins

RED-BREADED MERGANSER

1.	Ken Scheeler	Fred Muhs	
2.	Leo McIntosh	Fred Muhs	
3.	Laurence Udell	Barton Walter	
H.M.		J. Mulak	

OLD SQUAW

1.	Randy Tull	J. Trabuchi	Elphege Brunet
2.	Scott Smith	Linda Hart	B. Jennings
3.	H.R. Nichol	Norm Walsh	M. Pierce
H.M.	T. Beardsley	Norm Walsh	
	H.R. Nichol		

BEST IN CATEGORY - DIVING DUCKS

1.	Bob Havel,	Wayne Weeks,	Mike Deschamps,
	Canvasback,	Merganser	Goldeneye
2.	Ken Gleason,	Fred Muhs,	C. Van Note,
	Merganser	Merganser	Redhead
3.	Tom Shunate,	John Trabuchi,	Mike Pierce,
	Bufflehead	Old Squaw	Bufflehead

GEESE & CONFIDENCE

	Professional	Amateur	Novice
CANADA GEESE			
1.	Hans Bolte	Wm. Hart	Louis Swietek
2.	Hans Bolte	J.B. Alexander	
3.	John Sichik		

SUB-SPECIES, CANADA GEESE

1.	R. Van Houzen
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BRANT

1.	John Sichik	A. Warden	H. Jangensen
2.	John Sichik	Wayne Jones	B. Jennings
3.	Bill Joekel	B. Griffith	B. Hopkins
H.M.		B. Griffith	W.H. Tracey

ALL OTHER GEESE

1.	Ralph Stutheit	George Fries	Bruce Jennings
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COOT

1.	Jay Polite	J. Alexander	
2.	J. Rivello	Joe Kline	
3.	Bob Sutton		

GREEBE

1.	Joe Rivello	Wayne Weeks	Mike Siedden
2.	Larry Witt	Wayne Weeks	
3.	Jay Polite	Barton Walter	
H.M.	J.B. Garton	J. Tierney	
	B. Henthorn		

ALL OTHER

1.	Bill Schultz	Bob Elliott	W.H. Tracey
2.	Bill Schultz	John Even	
3.	R. Van Houzen	John Sawyer	
H.M.	Wm. Veasey	G. Marshall	

BEST IN DIVISION - GEESE & CONFIDENCE

1.	Bill Schultz,	Bob Elliott,	Holder Jorgensen,
	Artic Loon	Ring Gull	Brant
2.	Hans Bolte,	Wayne Weeks,	W.H. Tracey,
	Canada Goose	Merganser	Loon
3.	Ralph Stutheit	A.M. Warden,	Louis Swietek,
	W.F. Goose	Brant	Canada Goose

FINAL JUDGING - DECORATIVE DECOYS

1.	Jim Foote,	Jim Sprankle,	Mike Deschamps,
	Widgeon	Shoveler	Goldeneye
2.	Bob Havel,	Wayne Weeks,	Joe Miller,
	Canvasback	Merganser	B.W. Teal
3.	Bill Schultz,	Bob Elliott,	H. Jorgensen,
	Loon	Gull	Brant

DECORATIVE LIFESIZE WILDFOWL

	Professional	Amateur	Novice
WATERFOWL			
1.	Fred Traver	S. Oneschuk	C. Chermie
2.	Bill Schultz	Jim Sprankle	Jim Plack
3.	George Becker	Joe Kline	M. Deschamps
H.M.	D. Briddell	George Becker	H. McCsheny
			W. Hazzard

SHORE BIRDS

1.	J. Scheeler	P. Stovall	Bill Hazzard
2.	Bill Schultz	L. McLaughlin	Harris Guidry
3.	Roy LeGaux	John Sawyer	Bill Hazzard
H.M.	P. Burdette		E. Brickle
			H. McCsheny
			Bill Hazzard

GAME BIRDS

1.	A. Henthorn	W. Watson	Bill Hazzard
2.	G.A. Pletzer	H. Doolittle	B. Hazzard
3.	G.A. Pletzer	H. Baribeau	B. Hazzard
H.M.	B. Schultz	K. Beck	M. Sykes

BIRDS OF PREY

1.	Bill Schultz	R. Palmer	Bill Hazzard
2.	B. Pshnik	R. Palmer	B. Hazzard
3.	Ron Tapley	Frank Grant	B. Hazzard
H.M.	E. Muehlmat		L. Barth

SONG BIRDS

1.	J. Scheeler	W. Watson	Bill Hazzard
2.	Phil Zeller	C. Maledon	Don Fasking
3.	Jack Gilmore	Bob Elliott	Glenn Ornsby
H.M.	J. Mullican	W. Sudden	E. Pyle

STAINED OR NATURAL FINISH

1.	Lynn Forehand		Jack Dillman
2.	Lynn Forehand		Jack Dillman
3.	John Sharp		Jack Dillman
H.M.	Jack Gilmore		

FINAL - DECORATIVE LIFESIZE WILDFOWL

1.	John Scheeler,	Steve Oneschuk,	Bill Hazzard
	Clapper Rail	Loon	Grouse
2.	John Scheeler,	Phillip Stovall,	Bill Hazzard,
	Road Runner	Green Heron	Blackbird
3.	Fred Traver,	Walter Watson,	Bill Hazzard,
	Wood Ducks	Hummingbird	Godwit

DECORATIVE MINIATURE WILDFOWL

1.	Don Briddell	John Sawyer	Steve Church
2.	Phil Zeller	Olaine Becker	C. Granger
3.	George Becker	J. Williams	Tom Birch
H.M.	R. Guge	R. Rivello	E. Cheezum
	D. Brown		E. Brickle
			S. Church

SHORE BIRDS

1.	Jack Franco	Fred Cutts	Steve Church
2.	E. Muehlmat	Fred Cutts	Larry Barth
3.	Mrs. J. Wolf	Wm. Sudgen	Don Hanky
H.M.	J. Wolf		

GAME, PREY & SONGBIRDS

1.	John Bryan	Gary Yoder	Larry Barth
2.	D. Briddell	Aifred Ponte	Steve Church
3.	Ernest Wagner	Gary Yoder	L. Braddock
H.M.		A. Ponte	

STAINED OR NATURAL FINISH

1.	Lynn Forehand	J.E.B. Stuart	Joe Jordan
2.	Jack Gilmore	L. Essington	J. Van Reit
3.		Chas. Yerkes	W. Jensen
H.M.		L. Essington	L. Haggblom
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