

# Chesapeake Wildfowl Expo:

## Celebrating the Past & Looking Forward

By Kristie Clattenburg

The 2019 Chesapeake Wildfowl Expo and Fall Festival took place on October 12. In addition to all of the traditional Wildfowl Expo activities such as the Chesapeake Challenge and “Old Bird” antique decoy competitions, this year we added pumpkin painting and carving, and Quack or Treat – trick or treat through the Museum’s galleries, with stations manned and treats provided by area businesses, nonprofits, and educational partners.

The Ward Museum also debuted two, brand-new exhibits during Expo: *War Over the Waves: Oyster Wars of the Chesapeake* and *Art of the Industry: Oyster Cans of the Mid-Atlantic*. These exhibits were formally ushered in with a brunch reception enjoyed by all.

Meanwhile, in the Museum’s back yard, we held the time-honored Chesapeake

Challenge. This year the competition saw 42 decoy makers competing with 206 entries (see winning entries on pages 9-10). The “Old Bird” competition, held inside the Museum, featured antique decoys brought by 11 competitors. Winners (page 7-8) are on display in the Museum’s Decoy Study Gallery through April.

We give a special thanks to Rich Smoker and Harry Jackson for running the Chesapeake Challenge, and a dear thanks to all of our judges and volunteers as well. Without them, and our event sponsors, the Chesapeake Challenge just wouldn’t have been possible.

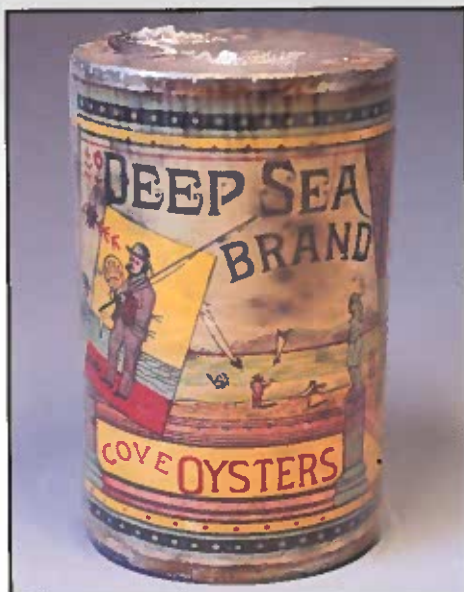
Now looking forward, we love the Wildfowl Expo dearly, which is why we’ve decided to grow the event even further in a new direction. With so many events happening on the Delmarva Peninsula

in the month of October, and with input from communities through our 2019 visioning workshops (see the director’s letter, page 2), we have decided to move the date for 2020 and combine some of the festivities with a popular event from the past: the Delmarvalous Festival. The newly re-launched Delmarvalous Festival will feature demonstrations, talks, games and other events celebrating the cultural traditions of the Delmarva Peninsula, including decoy carving! It’s an exciting new home for the Chesapeake Challenge. Join us for the excitement on Saturday, August 8, 2020, and be on the lookout for more information about the competition and other event activities soon – at [www.wardmuseum.org](http://www.wardmuseum.org).

### Thank you to the sponsors of the 2019 Chesapeake Wildfowl Expo:

- Chincoteague Decoy Carvers’ and Artists’ Association
- Knott’s Knives
- Refuge Motor Inn / Art Leonard
- Friend of George R. Root / Karl Yankey
- Bennett Scott
- Rich & Ross Smoker
- Farmers and Planters Co.
- Pepsi Bottling Co.
- Sam’s Club
- Walmart
- Delmarva Decoy Collectors Association
- Doug Fisher
- Friends of George Root
- Maryland State Arts Council
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Salisbury-Wicomico Arts Council
- Salisbury University

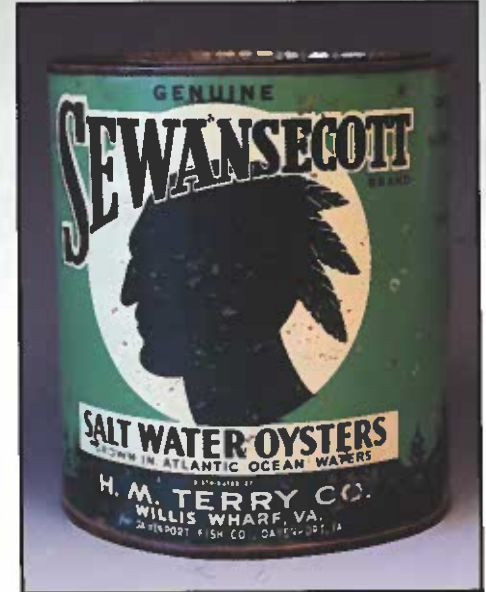
This year’s Expo also featured a People’s Choice antique oyster can competition. Winners (below) were featured in the Ward Museum’s *Art of the Industry* exhibit.



Deep Sea Brand Cover Oysters  
Collection of C. John Sullivan, Best in Show



Burton’s Seafood Famous Chincoteague Salt Water Oysters  
Collection of Matt Burton, Second in Show



Sewansegott Oyster Can  
Collection of Heck Rice, Third in Show