Thornton W. Burgess Society presents the

9th Annual Bird Carvers’ & Wildlife Arts Show & Sale

Sponsored by:
WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

September 8 & 9, 2012
10:00 AM • 4:00 PM

Green Briar Nature Center & Jam Kitchen
6 Discovery Hill Road, East Sandwich 02537
508-888-6870 www.thorntonburgess.org

Admission proceeds benefit the educational programs of the Thornton W. Burgess Society

DEMONSTRATIONS • EXHIBITS • APPRAISALS
SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, September 8  10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday, September 9  10:00 am to 4:00 pm

DEMONSTRATIONS & TALKS

SATURDAY
Burgess Staff  Live Animal Story Time
John Mello  The Art of Making Bird Feet
Al Jordan  Owls of the Northeast
Michael McCarthy  Carving and Painting a Least Bittern

SUNDAY
Michael McCarthy  Carving and Painting a Least Bittern

The Thornton W. Burgess Society’s Green Briar Nature Center is pleased to present its ninth annual Bird Carvers’ & Wildlife Arts Show & Sale. Our exhibitors represent the leading carvers and artists of New England and can boast of numerous awards received at many of the country’s most prestigious carving competitions. We are indebted to them for keeping alive the tradition of bird and animal painting and carving in our area. Their replicating and preserving of the beauties of nature in wood and on canvas matches well with the Burgess Society’s mission “to inspire reverence for wildlife and concern for the natural environment.”

About our Event Sponsor: For 20 years Wild Birds Unlimited has been Cape Cod’s source for all the best products and knowledge for your backyard feeding hobby. Please visit them in South Yarmouth at the Hearth & Kettle Plaza. They are open year round, 7 days a week.
2012 EXHIBITORS

FEATURED CARVER

FRANK J. ADAMO, Pocasset, MA

Adamo is a self-taught artist who has been carving on Cape Cod since 1970. Frank’s love of wildlife has led him to carve a variety of subjects. If it flies or swims, he has probably paid homage to it in wood and paint. “When I create a piece, I am not trying to make a lab specimen, but rather a portrait that compliments the subject.” His carving interests include songbirds, shore birds, waterfowl and game fish; though antique decoys are his favorite subject, and miniature carving is his favorite approach. Using hand tools such as knives and gouges, along with simple but effective paint techniques, Frank produces a limited number of pieces that have become very much in demand throughout the country.

Though rarely competing, Frank does well when he does. In 2008 at the World Competition held each year in Ocean City, MD, he won several ribbons including a first place for a collection of miniature “antique” decoys. That collection can be seen here along with a nice sampling of his work.

He has been a juried member of the Society of Cape Cod Craftsmen for almost 40 years and is also a working member of the New England and National Woodcarvers Association.

Frank enjoys teaching his craft at all levels and offers regular classes and private lessons. He also makes himself available for workshops and demonstrations. Always happy to share his knowledge and love for the craft, Frank has a close following of students who themselves have gone on to show, sell and compete with their carvings. His work can be seen at a few select shows and at his home in Pocasset by appointment.

“Always a pot of coffee on the stove!”

JAMES ALEXANDER, North Eastham, MA

Jim became a full time bird carver in 2002, concentrating mainly on decorative style decoys and has won numerous awards, including First in Category, First in Class, First in Division and Best in Show in numerous competitions throughout the Northeast. Jim blends the warmth of wood and his love of wildlife into a one of a kind creation. His work centers around waterfowl, shore birds, wildfowl, raptors and a variety of birds found throughout New England. Jim has continued to grow in his art and loves to share his skills and interests with others. He often shares his love of wildlife with family and friends in his studio located on Cape Cod. Previously an avid duck hunter, Jim discovered that the inspiration to do a particular piece usually comes from countless hours of observing the subject in the wild. His work pays great attention to accuracy as well as artistic presentation. Each piece is a unique work of art. Jim has studied with some of the world’s best master bird carvers and continues to refine his own technique and style. Having a life-like quality, Jim’s carvings are prized additions to many collectors. His sense of awareness of nature is evident in his carvings and artwork. In addition to selling his creations, Jim accepts commissions on specific species that may be of interest to his clients.

SHEILA BOWEN, Sandwich, MA

Sheila’s love of woodcarving began some 30 years ago when she started a home-based business making hand carved signs. From there she progressed to low relief carvings of landscapes and portraits of houses, people and animals.

Inspired by national bird carving exhibitions, she began carving detailed birds which are now her specialty. Competition is the best way to learn and excel in any field, and Sheila has won many awards for her work including blue ribbons at the prestigious Ward World Championship in Maryland.

Living on Cape Cod, there are ample opportunities to study many kinds of shorebirds, water birds, raptors and songbirds. She finds the challenge of transforming a block of wood into a beautiful life-like bird to be an exciting accomplishment.
Sheila is a member of the Artisans Guild of Cape Cod and her work can be seen at Jewelry Inspirations gallery, 276 Route 28 in West Dennis.

**ALBERT P. BUCKLEY, Cohasset, MA**

Albert Buckley started carving back in 1978 as a member of the Scituate Woodcarvers Association. He began by making relief carving and signs under the tutelage of Paul McCarty and Dave Hassen. Over time, due to the influence of John Nickerson, he moved on to songbirds, shorebirds and waterfowl. He carves mostly decoratives and miniatures, but lately has also been making working style decoys, carving with Bob Mosher of Hingham, MA.

Buckley's carvings have won numerous ribbons from Best of Show at the New England Wildlife Exposition to recent awards at the prestigious Ward Foundation World Championships. Most recently he took a third place ribbon in the Ward Museum's Chesapeake Challenge—an open contest attracting the best professional carvers in the country.

Al has studies with the late Richard Palmer of Middleboro, Steve Weaver of Forestdale and June Noll of Brewster. Much of his work is done on commission and his carvings are featured in many major private collections throughout the country.

**RANDY and ELAINE FISHER, Dennis, MA**

Randy and Elaine are a husband/wife team of naturalists from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, who bring skill and discipline to their craft. Both are avid bird watchers and devote as much time as possible to the study and photography of their subjects. They have banded birds for U.S. Fish and Wildlife at Manomet & Mass. Audubon, and so have hand held almost every bird they carve.

Fisher birds have been exhibited at the Ward Foundation Wildfowl Carving & Art Exhibition in Salisbury, MD; The Academy of Natural Sciences Wildfowl Art Expo in Philadelphia, PA; Audubon Bird Carving shows in Ma., Ct. and RI.; as well as art festivals from Maine to Key West, FL.

Carving full time professionally since 1978, their work is in private collections all over the world. They have won awards at the World Championship in MD, Professional class, the Ct. Wildfowl Competition as well as most major art shows in New England and Florida including Winter Park, Los Olas and Coconut Grove Art Festivals.

**AL JORDAN, Rochester, NY**

Al has been intrigued with birds and the outdoors as long as he can remember. As a licensed falconer, he spends countless hours in the field, as well as studying and researching other birds. His ability to capture life-like qualities has earned him a national reputation as a master carver, each piece being a one of a kind work of art. Meticulous attention to details (accuracy and animation), mastery of composition and design, and habitat creation has resulted in countless blue ribbons and more than thirty Best of Show awards across the country. In addition, Al has been named the New York Wildlife Sculptor of the Year multiple times. Al's work is now in numerous private collections and corporate offices and can be seen at several nature art exhibits across the America.

**ERIC KAISER, Cotuit, MA**

Eric’s fondness for waterfowl came from growing up on the water and competitive sailing. In the 1980’s, he was introduced to the art of carving, and from then on sculpting waterfowl would become his life’s work. After more than two decades of dedication, Eric has established himself among the nation’s finest decorative decoy makers and wildfowl artists. His work has been featured in magazines and calendars and is found in private and public collections internationally. On the world stage, Kaiser is among an exclusive group to have earned the title of “Master” awarded by the Ward Foundation, an honor earned only by those receiving top honors in the World Championships. In 2003 & 2007, his work finished second in the World Championships. Eric creates the satiny, inviting look that is his hallmark by using a warm pallet and many thin glazes of oil paint.
layered over fine detailing applied to Tupelo wood. He makes his home on Cape Cod with his wife, their son and the birds that frequent the backyard pond and nearby bays.

MICHAEL R. McCARTHY, Mattapoisett, MA

Michael lives in Mattapoisett with his wife Jackie and their two children, Jonathan and Marielle. When he is not carving, he can be found coaching basketball and baseball, or teaching his art form. He has been carving now for over 30 years, having gotten his start as a young Boy Scout. He exhibits his work at 30 to 35 shows a year, mostly along coastal Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Massachusetts. He has won numerous ribbons at New England competitions. Bird carving is an important part of Michael’s life. He loves to carve antique style shore birds and wildfowl decoys. Years ago he picked up a book on American wildfowl decoys, and that’s all it took for him to fall in love with 19th Century Atlantic flyway bird decoys. His love of the antique style evolved with the imaginations of the masters: Elmer Crowell, Joe Lincoln, Shang Wheeler, Harry Shourds, Lee Dudley, Nathan Cobb, and, of course, the Ward brothers. The many different carving styles along the Atlantic flyway have given him countless birds from which to acquire his own unique style.

JOHN A. MELLO, Jr., Warren, RI

Mello began carving in 1975 using Basswood and oil paints. In 1980 he began carving professionally and slowly switched to carving using Tupelo Gum, a wood grown in the wet areas of the South, and painting them with acrylics. Having practiced taxidermy for 40 years provided him with a reference to accurately carve and paint game birds. For songbirds and other protected birds, he uses study skins borrowed from museums. Mello has exhibited in many major shows in the United States and won many awards in local, national and world competitions. In 1996 he won the prestigious “A. Elmer Crowell Award.” His birds are in many museums and private collections both in the United States and Europe.

BOB MOSHER, Hingham, MA

Bob Mosher is a native of Hingham, Massachusetts, a community that has produced outstanding woodenware and decoy carvings since Colonial times. As a teenager he fell in love with the classic New England style decoys while gunning in Hingham Harbor over Burr Bluebills, Lincoln Blacks and Gardner Geese. The love Bob developed for these decoys became a passion as he grew older. Bob has also carved with and learned from some of the best traditional carvers on the East Coast.

The decoys produced by the early Massachusetts carvers heavily influence Bob's carvings. He works in northern white cedar using a variety of drawknives, hand knives and rasps. Bob finishes the carvings with oil paints. The birds are then rubbed down to produce a mellow antique patina.

Bob has won numerous ribbons and awards, including Best of Shows in the Professional Division of the New England Woodcarving and Wildlife Art Expo and numerous ribbons at the World's Championship in Ocean City, MD. In 2009 he won a first place ribbon in the Contemporary Antique Category at the Ward Foundation World Championships at Ocean City, Maryland and has been chosen as a teacher for the National Endowment for the Arts project “Carving Out Future Decoy Makers”. This program is administered by the Ward Museum, and Bob is one of only twelve master decoy carvers selected nationwide for this project. Bob’s work has appeared in the major antique decoy auctions, and he was one of three contemporary carvers asked by the Duxbury Art Complex Museum to display their work at their exposition of traditional and contemporary New England decoys. Recently he was chosen to give the decoy carving demonstration at the Mass Audubon Visual Art Center during their prestigious A. Elmer Crowell Exhibition.

Bob gives talks on the “Art of Traditional Decoy Carving” and the “History of Decoys.” He has judged at the New England Woodcarving and Wildlife Art Exposition and the Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Competition. Bob
is Treasurer of the A.E. Crowell American Bird Decoy Foundation, Inc.

JUNE NOLL, Brewster, MA

June lives in Brewster in the heart of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Surrounded by an abundance of sea life, bird life and animals, June creates life-like sculptures of a wide variety of animals and birds. Having an avid interest in wildlife since early childhood and combining it with a natural talent for painting and sculpture has given her fuel for the creation of works with personality. June is basically a self-taught wildlife carver-artist, drawing on a background of studio arts and Art History in college. After experimenting with various techniques, she has developed a certain style, which she shares very freely with her students in carving classes. Many of her students have also won National awards themselves. June has exhibited her work all over New England and has received many National awards for her carvings. Each one of June’s carvings requires an enormous amount of hours to complete. The detail is carved and etched with the greatest concentration and patience. No two carvings are ever alike. Even the limited edition carvings are never alike, which makes them truly one-of-a-kind collectable art pieces. June is available for lectures, demonstrations and seminars. Commissions are welcome.

GEORGE RUSSAS, E. Dennis, MA

George and his family have lived in East Dennis since 1977. His love for carving began as a student of June Noll from 1990 to 1996. During that time he won ribbons on all of his bird carvings including “Best of Show” in the novice division at the 1991 N.E. Woodcarving & Wildlife Expo in Cromwell, CT. George resumed his carving in 2007 and has received numerous awards including “Best of Show’s” “President’s Choice Award” and “The George Sousy Memorial Plaque Award” for his art work.

George enjoys the challenge of bringing fine detail and realism into his carvings. He plans to carve, compete and study birds well into the future.

BUD TALPEY, Bridgewater, MA

Bud Talpey has had an appreciation of birds and wildlife and has been involved in working with wood all of his life. He grew up in northern Maine, where the lumber industry and the beauty of nature were an integral part of his life. Bud’s older brother recently gave him a flying mallard that Bud carved and signed as a teenager in 1945. Bud moved to Massachusetts in 1953, where his vocation was carpenter and builder for 23 years. This was followed by 13 years as a local Building Inspector and then Superintendent of Building for Plymouth County for four years. His avocation as a bird carver began seriously in 1981. Bud enjoys the scope of bird carving and has won ribbons and awards in local, regional and national shows. Before starting any carving, he spends time studying photographs and research material to become familiar with the bird’s habits and environment in order to capture a special feeling about each one. Bud shares his knowledge of carving and painting in an instructional workshop at his studio in Whitman.

STEVEN A. WEAVER, Forestdale, MA.

Steve Weaver has been carving for over thirty years. Over the years, his entries have consistently won top awards to bring him national recognition. He opened Wakeby Wildlife Studio in Sandwich to enable him to pursue his art full time.

The Governor of Massachusetts selected Mr. Weaver to portray the State Bird-the Black-capped Chickadee. His carving was displayed in a 50 state exhibition at the Ward Foundation Museum for an entire summer. Steve was chosen to exhibit his carvings in “Floating Sculpture: Traditional and Contemporary New England Decoys”. This was held at The Duxbury Art Complex Museum in Duxbury, MA. The Cahooon Museum of American Art in Cotuit, MA included his work in their exhibit, “In Fine Feather: Excellence in Contemporary Bird Carving and Avian Art. Most recently, the Thornton Burgess Society held a one person show highlighting his carvings and painting for three months at the Green Briar Nature Center in Sandwich, MA. His belief in the Thornton Burgess Society’s Mission Statement “To
Steve has been invited to give lectures and demonstrations throughout New England. These presentations focus on the history of traditional carving and the development of contemporary techniques in the art of bird carving. He takes pride in attention to detail, whether it is a representation of an antique gunning bird or a realistic contemporary carving.

In order to share his knowledge of carving, Steve has offered workshops through the Cahoon Museum, Heritage Museums and Gardens, The Nantucket Historical Society, The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History as well as the Thornton Burgess Society. He gives instruction to meet the needs of both novice and experienced carvers in the ever-changing art of bird carving.

Steve is an accomplished professional restorer of early decoys, miniatures and decorative bird carvings. He has restored carvings of most of the early New England master carvers including Elmer Crowell, Joe Lincoln, Lothrop Holmes and Luther Nickerson to name a few. This hands-on association with these carving legends has played a significant role in the evolution of Steve’s work over the past fifteen years. Many of his recent carvings and paintings have been inspired by these turn of the century carvers.

APPRASIALS

TED & JUDITH HARMON of Decoys Unlimited, Inc., Barnstable, MA

The Harmons operate the largest decoy auction firm in Massachusetts. Ted has been a decoy dealer for over 40 years and has operated his auction firm over 30 years. He will be available in the Swain Library at Green Briar to appraise decoys and bird carvings for visitors to the show.

12:00 noon to 4:00pm Saturday, Sept. 8th

About Us

Founded in 1976 the Thornton W. Burgess Society’s is a non-profit educational institution whose mission is to inspire reverence for wildlife and concern for the natural environment, ideals expressed in the work of author and naturalist Thornton Burgess. To achieve its mission the Society operates the Burgess Museum, the Green Briar Nature Center with its historic Jam Kitchen and the East Sandwich Game Farm in cooperation with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. For more information visit www.thorntonburgess.org

Mark Your Calendar!

The Thornton W. Burgess Society

Presents

“AN EVENING FOR GREEN BRIAR”

To benefit our Education Programs
Help us to Preserve – Educate – Conserve

Saturday, October 20, 2012  5:30-8:30 PM

Historic Sandwich Town Hall
Wine – Hors d’oeuvres – Buffet
Live Music – Silent & Live Auctions

Tickets: $75 per person

Tickets may be purchased by calling 508-888-6870,
by mail or at the event.

Auction card will be given at the door.

Thornton W. Burgess Society

...to inspire reverence for wildlife and concern for the natural environment