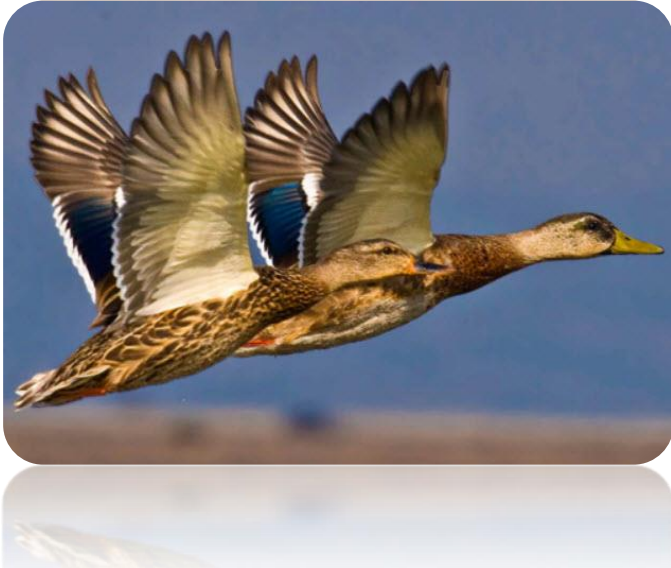


Pacific Flyway Decoy Association Newsletter



Greetings from Fallon, Nevada

Last month we had the annual Wood Duck luncheon here in Fallon. The luncheon and auction fund the wood duck project for the 2016 year. I cooked about a hundred pounds of spaghetti and sauce for the luncheon. Based on the amount of spaghetti left over, it was well liked by the local crowd. Sherrie Russell Meline did a painting of a group of wood ducks on a rustic old fence on one of the properties where we capture and band wood ducks. She donated two of her current prints to the wood duck project. One was auctioned, and the other went to the owner of the property portrayed in the painting. The one print raised a pretty good amount of money for the wood duck project, and the second print brought tears to many eyes when presented to the property owner. She had lost her husband about two months before the luncheon.

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Sherrie is going to donate a framed print of her now famous "Fallon Wood Ducks". She asked me to carve a wood duck feather to be included in the framing of the print. So if you haven't purchased your tickets for the Saturday night banquet, be sure to reserve them soon, as we expect a sell-out this year. If tickets do sell out, you can still attend the auction. Remember, the Friday and Saturday night auctions are the main source of money for PFDA. All of the proceeds from both auctions go to next year's show, so if you have something to donate, please give Kevin Meline a call at: 530-926-3477.



If you have looked at the show brochure you have seen our new category....wall hangers. Although there is an explanation, it seems that there is still some confusion on what makes a wall hanger. Think, a carving that is made to hang on a wall. Big birds, little birds, antique birds, abstract birds, etc. There is no entry fee, but your wall hanger needs to go through the registration table to be entered. If you want to sell your work, make sure you have a price on it, and your contact name. You will be responsible for the transaction with your customer, and there is no commission to PFDA. However, you can always make a small contribution if you so desire.

I guess no president's message would be complete without a request for volunteers. What better way to get really involved with PFDA. We need volunteers to help out in almost every facet of the show. If you'd like to get up close and personal with the carvings, how about volunteering for registration or bird traffic? Both of these volunteer jobs let you see some of the finest carvings in the world. If you like meeting the public, there is the sales and raffle table. You can volunteer by contacting me at tealcarver@yahoo.com. I will put you in contact with the appropriate person.



This year we are featuring live painting and carving demonstrations. These are meant for the general public. Your job there is to demonstrate carving or painting, but mainly to answer questions from the spectators. You don't need to be a world class carver or painter to answer the questions, just a desire to inform the public about our art form. However, world class carvers and painters are also welcome. We will be organizing two hour commitments for either carving or painting, if you would like to do both, we can schedule two sessions for you. So if you think you would like to join the fun, let me know. An email would be fine. (tealcarver@yahoo.com). Also if you have a preferred day (Saturday or Sunday) or a preferred time (Saturday or Sunday: 9:30-4:00)

I am looking forward to seeing each and every person at the show in July. As always, it promises to be bigger and better than the last show. Our group of volunteers make PFDA the most successful and enjoyable show in the country.

Bob Joseph,

President



Show Information from Bob Solari, Show Co-Chair

BANQUET TICKETS

The June 25th “early bird deadline” is rapidly approaching. Better buy early to take advantage of this opportunity for the chance to win a \$100 raffle ticket packet (three packets will be drawn at the beginning of the dinner). ***Don't wait until the Show on Saturday. You may be turned down because of a sell-out!*** Dinner tickets are \$45 for individuals and a special per couple rate of \$85. Presold tickets are picked up at the Admissions Table on Saturday.

For more information please call:

Bob Solari at 925-687-2013.



COCKTAIL PARTY

Carvers... consider donating a small “mini” type carving or piece for the Cocktail Auction on Friday night. Past carvings have been a variety of decorative birds, fish, decoys, other animals, pendants, olives, etc. Do something unique, maybe a funky dog carving or some other one-of-a-kind item? **A Heads up...**bring your piece to the auction table early, so it is available for people to view, and make their vote before the auction begins. For more information contact:

Bob Solari at 925-687-2013 or Bob Joseph at 775-423-7827.

SATURDAY NIGHT AUCTIONS - SILENT AND LIVE

Some folks donate one of their own carvings, some from their collection of past/present carvings done by others. Some donate something special but definitely different...quilts, duck/turkey calls, etc. ***Please consider making a donation for the auctions.*** For more information contact:

Bob Solari at 925-687-2013 or Kevin Meline at 530-926-3769



HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS

If you haven't already made reservations with the Doubletree, and want the special PFDA room rate, please do so right away! **June 19th ends the room block at the PFDA rate special.** PFDA gets credit for all room nights related to the show prior to this date, and this helps reduce the show rental space. After the deadline, rooms will still be available at the regular hotel rate. **So book quickly and don't forget to tell them you are coming in for the PFDA show.** And if you miss the cut-off, **still** let them know you are in for the show. **Call the hotel at 916-929-8855 to make your reservations.** Best bet is to call Monday through Friday. Should you end up talking with a reservations clerk that *is not located at the DT Sacramento*, ask to be connected to the Sacramento reservations desk. The easiest way is to go to pacificflyway.org and click on the hotel link. This will ensure that you get your room, and automatically counts towards fulfilling PFDA's room night obligation.



VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED

Interested in helping at the Show? We can always use more volunteers... experience is not a requirement, just looking for folks willing to help. Areas needing help are: **Bird traffic, clerking, raffle table, kid's painting, basket stuffers, and bird runners.** Please contact:

Chet Wilcox at 916-961-5400.



**Your
Reward!**

PFDA Officers

President	Bob Joseph
Vice-President	Bob Solari
Vice-President Membership	Jim Burcio
Secretary	Judy Stemen
Treasurer	Donna Burcio

The Board of Directors

Rick Banco
Elaine Cronin
Chris Fitting
Aaron Freitas
Sally Hanson
Penny Hovie (Historian)
Barbara MacDonald
Greg Mensik
Shirley Pinches
Brad Snodgrass
Fritz Zanker (Show Co-Chair)
Maurie Hicks (Show Co-Chair)



LIVE BIRD EVENT

Enjoy the pleasure of seeing live birds. And the kids will love seeing them. Carvers.... what a great way for close observation. On Saturday and Sunday, make a visit downstairs outside the California Room (Vendor Area) and observe this special display. Unforeseen circumstances sometimes happen regarding the live birds but currently the birds scheduled for display are: Red Tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Western Screech Owl, Barn Owl and Osprey.



COMPETITION EVENTS

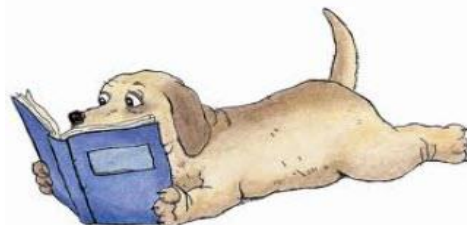
Clerking Seminar

Sally Hanson will hold a clerking Seminar on Friday afternoon beginning sharply at 1:00 PM, and ending at 3:00 PM in the Bear River Room. She would like any new people interested in learning about clerking and registration for all of the Competition entries to come to the meeting. This seminar is also a great time for veteran clerks to have a refresher since there are some changes from a year ago. Please call Sally at **530-756-6069** and let her know you are planning to attend. She can answer any clerking/registration questions you may have.



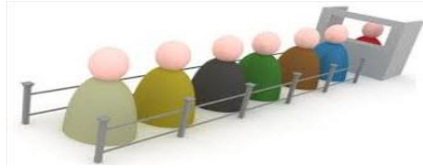
Show Brochure

Carvers, there are changes to some categories, so **please make sure that you carefully read the Show Brochure language for all events you are considering entering.** There are no competitions titled IWCA and/or references to IWCA rules. Again, be sure to read the rules of competition. You also need to know that the title "Advanced" carver has been changed back to "Open" carver.



Registration

Consider volunteering on Friday afternoon around 3:00PM and help with placing entries on the tables. Many hands make for less work, and the table displays are set up more rapidly. **The check-in people and bird traffic folks would be most appreciative.**



Bird Traffic

Carvers...Novice and Intermediate...why not spend a few hours Saturday or Sunday helping traffic birds from the display areas to the tanks and back again. An excellent way to handle ribbon winners...not something the average person is able to do at the show. Tank Managers will guide you...especially if you are a first-timer.



Judges Meeting Saturday morning

Judging Chair Rick Banko will hold a mandatory meeting for **ALL** Show Judges beginning at 8:30 AM in Maxi's. Maxi's is located at the end of the hall between the café and the lobby registration desk. All clerks not involved with late bird registration (8:00 – 9:00 AM) are encouraged to attend. Judges and Clerks do form a team and they need to be on the same playing field. So Clerks please attend. You will hear more at the Clerking Seminar on Friday afternoon.

For more information on any of the above, contact:

Bob Solari at 925-687-2013.



Don't Forget!

A substantial portion of the PFDA rule book has been rewritten to reflect our departure from IWCA sponsored competitions.

Check the rules carefully!

RAFFLE BASKETS



One of the highlights of the banquet night is the raffle for the beautiful baskets!

Consider donating a basket this year! Think of the theme, and buy some items to illustrate your theme. Get creative! Even the “basket” can be some other form of container, such as a bowl or bucket. How about a basket representing the town or area where you are from? Local merchants may even donate!

So what if you want to donate a raffle basket for the Saturday Night Banquet, but you don't want to put one together? We have the answer for you! Dorothy Wilcox and Penny Hovie will make one for you. Send either of them \$75

or more, and they will do the work for you. Either, you can select the theme, they can suggest a theme for you to pick from, or you can leave the entire project to them. Your name will be on the basket as the donor. Let us know if you are interested by June 1st. Your donation for the basket is tax deductible as we are a 501 (C)(3) organization. For information, contact:

Dorothy Wilcox: ccdjlwilcox@sbcglobal.net 916-961-5400

Penny Hovie phovie@att.net 916-925-8801

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!



MEMBERSHIPS

We are right in the middle of our annual membership drive. Our first notice met with a great response. For some of us, membership renewal has been an annual event for many, many years.... consider becoming a life member.... or take advantage of our **five year discount plan**. Please save your association some time and money by renewing now, rather than at the show. Anyone not renewing by September 1st will be dropped from our records.

One year membership is \$20, five year membership \$90, life membership \$225. Please make your check payable to PFDA and mail it to:

Jim Burcio 300 Marble Drive, Antioch CA 94509

45th Wildfowl Art Classic Show to feature PFDA's second "Foam decoy" division.

The Pacific Flyway Decoy Association (PFDA) will again include a foam decoy division. The rules for the foam division are extremely simple, and formatted in a manner that will allow carvers to be as artistic in their work as they desire, with virtually no restrictions.



The body must be carved from any type of foam; the head may be carved from wood or foam. Molded heads and or mandibles are not acceptable. Mandible detail, painting and finishing is unlimited. Decoys must have an anchor line attachment, but need not self-right.



Typically, foam decoys (often referred to as "Foamers") are carved from various types of polystyrene board insulation. The pink or blue stuff you see in home improvement stores, or even the bright white foam similar to that of convenience store drink coolers. Once carved to shape, carvers will make the piece more durable using burlap and mastic (tile adhesive), or a combination of wood glue and sawdust. Potentially weak, or high wear areas will be reinforced using various types of molding or sculpting putty.

Foamers then require the same types of sealers and paint finishes that might be applied to any other type of decoy. The light weight and ease of carving really lends itself to a carver's wild imagination. Odd poses that may present balancing problems in other mediums, can be overcome relatively easily with lightweight foam.

As a fund raiser for PFDA, I am donating my award winning foam Ross's Goose. Watch for it at the show! See you in Sacramento!

Rob James



BIRD A MONTH CLUB

The Bird A Month Club is focused on increasing show entries and adding some fun to our efforts. Each participant sends in \$20 (checks made out to PFDA - B/M/C), and tries to bring 12 carvings for the 2015 show. These might be 12 entries (pairs count as two), or eleven entries and a cocktail piece... you get the idea. Those that bring the required number of carvings will have their name on a ticket and be entered into a drawing for 75% of the funds collected for B/M/C. Twenty five percent will be retained by the PFDA as a fundraiser. Lacking the required number of 12 carvings, you will not be entered in the drawing... better luck next year! Don't get hung up on the term "Bird"... you can also carve fish, or carve a critter for the cocktail auction or dinner auction.

Imagine getting 20 carvers to participate... that would create a target of 240 carvings. That total would equal nearly half of the carvings that we currently get in our show. We usually have about 450 - 475 carvings.

So, if the challenge of getting more carvings to the show, and the possibility of winning the fundraiser raffle, appeals to you...

Mail your check made out to **PFDA - B/M/C** to:

Jim Burcio

300 Marble Drive, Antioch CA 94509

If you can't possibly come up with twelve carvings, consider donating \$20 to sweeten the PFDA pot, and encourage the carvers taking on the challenge.

Mystery

Photo

Answer on Page18



Purchase Award Competitions for 2015

Sea Ducks & Mergansers

Floyd & Zell Snodgrass Memorial Award

\$1,000 First Place

- **Long Tailed Hen**

(Sponsored by Brad Snodgrass & Lesley Parkin)



California Rice Commission



\$400 First Place

\$300 Second Place

\$100 Third Place



- **Western Sandpiper**
- **American Kestrel**

First two places are purchase awards for both species

Mini-Decoys

\$250 First Place

- **Blue-Winged Teal Drake**

(Sponsored by Maurie & Ginny Hicks)



California Waterfowl Association

“Decoy of the Year”

- \$1,000 First Place
- \$200 Second Place
- \$100 Third Place

- **White-Fronted Goose**



Featherweight Decoys

- \$250 First Place
- \$225 Second Place
- \$200 Third Place

- **Slat Speck Goose**



(Sponsored by Gray Hills. All three birds will be purchased)

Six Inch Classic Decoy Swap

- \$75 First Place
 - \$50 Second Place
 - \$25 Third Place
- **Gadwall Hen**



US Fish and Wildlife

- \$500 Aleutian Cackling Goose:
Full-bodied, standing or feeding
(Legs made or bought)



- \$300 Belted Kingfisher:
Full-bodied female on a branch
(Legs made or bought, branch
made or natural)



To view *all* of the purchase awards go to www.pacificflyway.org and click on "2015 PFDA Show Brochure"

Know Your Birds

Since one of our featured birds for the 2015 show is the American Kestrel...

1. The American Kestrel is commonly known as the Sparrow Hawk. Is it a:
(a) hawk (b) kestrel (c) falcon?
2. The American Kestrel nests in:
(a) tree branches (b) tree cavities (c) cliffs (d) nest boxes.
3. The main diet of the American Kestrel is:
(a) sparrows (b) small prey (c) insects.
4. How much does an American Kestrel weigh?
(a) 3-4 ounces (b) 6-7 ounces (c) 9-10 ounces.
5. How do the facial markings of the American Kestrel differ from other falcons?

Answers on Page 17

Wall Hanger Display

By now, you have received your show brochure. If you check page 8, we have a creative new display scheduled for this July called Wall Hangers! The most easily recognized wall hangers might be any and all woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, brown creepers, but any bird can become a wall hanger, such as flying shorebirds, or a couple of dead snipe on a strap. Since this is a display, there are no entry fees, but enter your carvings through the registration table. Wall Hangers will be on display until 4 o'clock Sunday. If you need more information, contact Jim Burcio at: jburcio@comcast.net



Wish You Were Here... by Jim Burcio



In my “planner”, are most of the necessary things that keep my daily life running smoothly. The kind of things that I need quick access to in order to accomplish those daily tasks that require some closure... phone numbers, passwords, To Do lists, calendar commitments. A critical document in my planner is a copy of a group photo taken at the first PFDA show. The official gathering held at Berkley Aquatic Park marked the first “show” with only a few thinking that this would continue for more than a handful of years. The group shot featured competition winners, who doubled as volunteers, organizers, and even sponsors. These brave souls gave it their all in an art form that was mostly unknown at that time.... most of them had not even opened a page of North American Decoy. We still get to enjoy the company of Rich Radigonda, Tom Newell, Bobby Sutton, Don Hovie, and Roger Barton.... but the other pioneers have passed on, including Ed Snyder, Stan Bennett, Del Smith, Dick and Jinx Troon, Dennis Carey, Bruce Buckley and Frank Sparks.

I am sure that it would be hard for them to imagine carving competitions across the country, supply catalogs, decoy carving forums, blogs, virtual judging via computers, magazines dedicated to competitions, carving seminars hosted at birding festivals, national endowment for the arts grants focused on teaching the traditional art form, and palm fronds raised to the level of sculpture. No less amazing, is the thought that this year will be the 45th annual Wildlife Art Festival, simply known as The Classic. What would they think, knowing that the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association is anchored at the Double Tree Hotel, features a wide assortment of sponsors, enjoys a dedicated group of volunteers, has a strong educational outreach program, and continues to prosper? If only our passed pioneers were around to see this... that old postcard cliché seems to fit ... “wish you were here”.

Living Legend

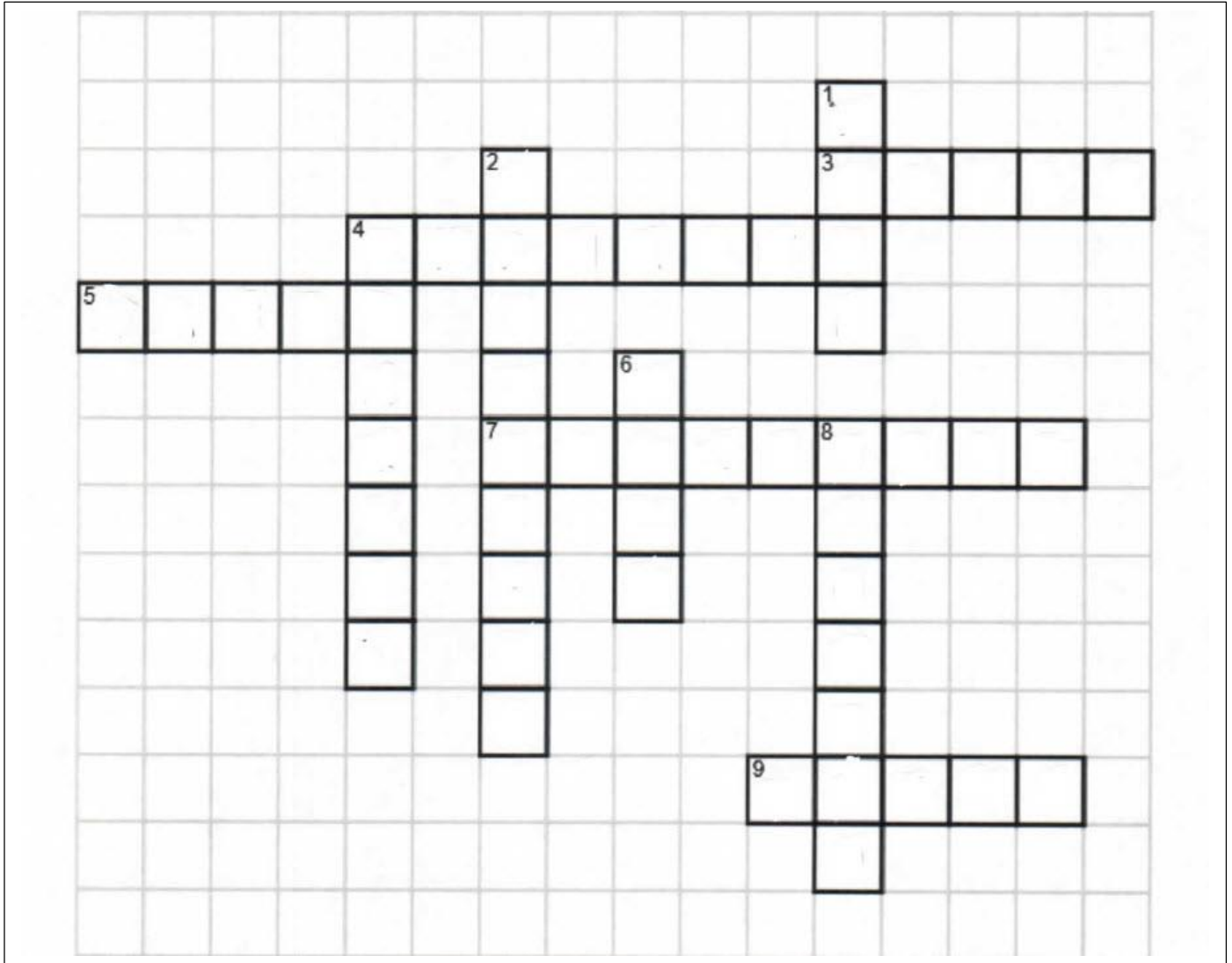
Congratulations to Bobby Sutton for receiving the Living Legends award at the Ward World Show in Ocean City, Maryland.

During the show, Bobby was taken ill and is still in the hospital in Maryland, but is slowly recovering. Our best wishes go out to Bobby for his full recovery.



Quack Facts Crossword Puzzle

Take a quack at this puzzle. Answers are on Page 18



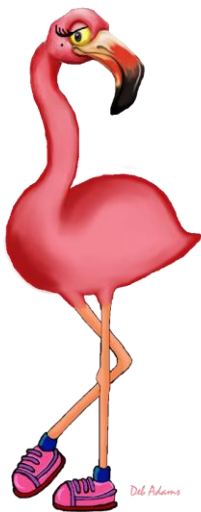
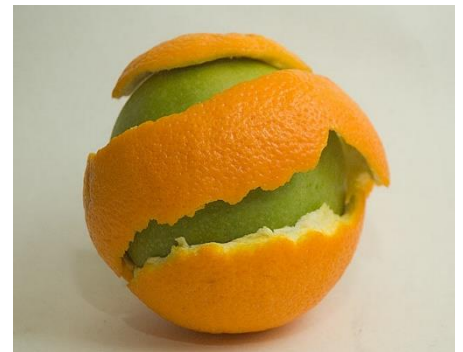
Across		Down	
3	Girl or Boy's name	1	Famous English architect, Christopher
4	Famous ballet	2	Common name for chickens
5	Steve Miller Band's, "Fly Like an"	4	Novella and movie, Jonathan Livingston.....
7	Beatles' song	6	I'm going to watch you like a
9	Birds in Alfred Hitchcock's movie	8	Sesame Street character

PAINTING CONTEST

We were informed when we offered to take on the sponsorship of this event that it gave us the option of setting the contest rules. During our discussions of what we would like to see happen, we determined that perhaps over the years we have lost sight of what this event originally set out to be.....which we believe was certainly to display the talent of the contestants but also a time to engage the audience, to entertain and have fun.... the contestants as well as the audience.



Until the time when it became too difficult to find someone willing and capable of providing the painters with identical blanks, everyone painted the same thing. In the effort to continue the contest we had participants bring their own carvings. If I remember correctly, for a time, we decided which bird would be carved and painted, but this has since evolved to allowing the contestants to bring whatever they wanted. There are some who feel this has turned into comparing apples to oranges. We feel differently.



The talent to paint is just that, whether it be a bowl of fruit or a flamingo. We would like to continue the option of bringing whatever you want to paint.....fish, fowl, flora, fauna, feather. Most of all we want you to bring on the fun. Let's get back to teasing each other, involving the audience, and harassing the judges. There is more than enough serious competition throughout the weekend, this should be a time to display your talent in a relaxed and easy going manner.

And speaking of judges, we would like to have a carver, a fine artist, and a member of the audience. We would also like to donate the winning item to PFDA to be auctioned Saturday night.

Billy & Shirley Pinches



Seminars “R” Us

As a 501c3 nonprofit, based on an educational format, the PFDA has developed a carving seminar program to fulfill its purpose. Keeping the original American art form of decoy carving alive, means educating the public regarding its history and the present opportunities available to try bird carving. The Newcastle seminar started



in the mid-1990s and has been an annual event ever since. It has grown from a one day carving seminar with only one species, to a two day seminar with the opportunity to select from three different species. The bird is carved on Saturday, and painted on Sunday. The Newcastle seminar has become the flagship of our seminar series. The PFDA hosts six or seven carving seminars each year, usually held in conjunction with a couple of “booth days” at a birding festival. Seminar season starts in November of each year with Lodi’s Crane Festival, and Stockton’s Central Valley Birding Symposium. Following those two events in late January is Chico’s

Snow Goose Festival, usually a junior project with the California Waterfowl Association’s Art Camp, and in April, Arcata’s Godwit Days. The seminar season comes to an end in May with the Newcastle seminar and Nevada’s Spring Wings Festival in Fallon. This year was highly successful with every seminar being sold out prior to the event. In fact, our Newcastle seminar was sold out in mid-January! This year we taught 66 people their first carving lesson, most of whom were beginners. Our projects included carving a Canyon Wren, Marsh Wren, Black Phoebe, drake Bufflehead, Common Tern, and a Meadowlark.

Many thanks to those who have shared their carving talents instructing our students over the years and helping to build our traveling program into carving’s best educational outreach program in the nation. We can be proud of what we have accomplished and look forward to selecting those species for next year’s seminar series. A special thank you to Bill and Barbara Peters, who have hosted the Newcastle weekend seminar for the past twenty years!!! Thank you to Sugar Pine Carving Supplies, and Wil-cut Company for their generous support of this



program.

For more information regarding dates, locations, and selected species for the coming series, contact Jim Burcio at jburcio@comcast.net



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PFDA Show, Sacramento	July 11-12, 2015
Columbia Flyway Show, Vancouver, WA	September 12-13, 2015
Chesapeake Wildfowl Expo, Ocean City	October 10, 2015
Lodi Crane Festival, Lodi	November 6-8, 2015
Easton Waterfowl Festival, Easton, MD	November 13-15, 2015
Snow Goose Festival, Chico	January 20-24, 2016
PSWA California Open, San Diego	February 13-14, 2016
Godwit Days, Arcata	April 13-19, 2016
Ward World Show, Ocean City, MD	April 22-24, 2016

Answers to Puzzles

Know Your Birds

Answers:

- 1 The American Kestrel is a falcon. The smallest falcon found in North America, and the only kestrel found in the Americas. The term kestrel refers to its hunting style of hovering over its prey. So, kestrel or falcon would be correct.
- 2 The American Kestrel is a cavity nester... so (b), (c), and (d) are correct.
- 3 The main diet of the American Kestrel consists of grasshoppers, dragonflies, lizards, mice, and occasionally small birds. The victims are snatched from the ground. So the correct answer is (b) and (c).
- 4 The American Kestrel is a good example of sexual dimorphism. The female is slightly larger than the male, with rufous colored wings, while the male has light blue color patches on his wing and shoulder. The correct answer is (a) 3-4 ounces.
- 5 The American Kestrel has two vertical black facial markings on each side of the head, while all other falcons have only one vertical marking. They also have two black circles on the back of the head, believed to function as false eyes. Predators are less likely to attack them, if they believe that they have been seen.

Quack Facts

Crossword

Across:

- 3 Robin
- 4 SwanLake
- 5 Eagle
- 7 Blackbird
- 9 Crows

Down:

- 1 Wren
- 2 Yardbirds
- 4 Seagull
- 6 Hawk
- 8 Bigbird

Mystery Photo

Breast feathers from an
American Kestrel.



END OF NEWSLETTER

(Designed, Edited and Produced by Lesley Parkin)