

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

(More details can be found on the Events tab of our [Website](#))

Through November 12

DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE: Celebrating Talbot County Decoys and Carvers

November 24 - December 17

A special holiday exhibit: CRÊCHES!
Barbara Cross shares her collection of nativity scenes from around the world.

December 1, 4 PM

Take a personal tour of the Crèche exhibit with Barbara Cross.

December 8, 5 - 7 PM

Members Annual Holiday Party
Church of Holy Trinity, Parish Hall

December 17, 6 PM

Caroling in the park led by the Ingram Family followed by refreshments in the Museum.

December 18, 2 - 4 PM

25% off at the Museum Shop
Special sale for Members!
Come into the store or order online from the Website.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

If you missed a **Memories and Musings** program this summer, you should know that all of them are recorded and the video links are available to you on our Museum website.

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paula Bell
Melody Davis
Jef Kinney
Gordon Fronk
Reese Meisinger
Karina Paape
John Pittman
David Poe
Phyllis Rambo
John Tochko
Julie Wells
Louisa Zendt

Stuart Parnes, Curator
Leo Nollmeyer, Director Emeritus
Pat Jessup, Director Emeritus



From The President: APPRECIATION

As the current exhibit comes to a close this month, and our holiday party celebrating the end of a great season follows, the word appreciation rings over and over in my mind. Since our opening day in April we have been busy and we have so much to be thankful for. While we appreciate all of our members and supporters we especially appreciate:

- Our Oxford Day Parade leader, Robert Morris and his muse (Dave Poe and Melody Davis)
- Two deeply engaged interns, Jessica Leaf and Mathijs Goyens-Harvey
- 24 docents covering 675 hours
- Julie Wells, Museum manager, secretary, director and more, handling anything needing to be done
- Bruce Eppard, Decoy Carving workshop and Decoy donations
- George Meyer, Collection, Appraisals and Presentation
- Henry Stansbury, Collection and Presentation
- Matt Ozman, Blinds and Presentation
- Ernie Burns, Collection and Presentation
- Paula Bell, chair of our programs/events committee, who is super organized and makes it happen!
- Barbara Cross, CRÊCHES!
- Oxford Police Team, watching over us
- Oxford Post Office, Stephanie, for her address/PO Box advice!
- Doc's Sunset Grill and Magnificent Crab Balls at our June Members party
- Anthony's, Appetizers at our Duck Duck Goose August opening
- Brian Wells, all technology and database needs
- Stuart Parnes, decoy exhibit vision, planning and curating
- Karina Paape, decoy exhibit research and set-up, art loan and covering 34 docent days this season!
- Leo Nollmeyer, leading town tours long after he retired from giving town tours
- The 2023 Board (listed to the left) for making all things possible by their hours of volunteer work

I know I have inadvertently left many people out, but I am sure you see my point: Oxford is a special place with very engaging people! In addition to sharing time and talents, you are generously participating in our Annual Fund. For all of the above and more people, we share in our appreciation of YOU.

Next up: **CRÊCHES!** Over the holidays we will be displaying Barbara Cross's collection of crèches (nativity scenes), large and small, from around the world. Her collection is whimsical and glorious, made from all sorts of materials. There is something for everyone, young and old, to enjoy. We hope to see you back in the Museum over the holidays.

With great appreciation,
Louisa Zendt, President

DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE: Celebrating Talbot County Decoys and Carvers

Thanks to local collectors, hunters and carvers in Talbot County, our current exhibit has been a great success. Experienced waterfowlers and laypeople alike, have enjoyed the displays, the MPT Chesapeake Decoys video, and the children's activities and blinds (inside and out!) Thanks to our presenters, Henry Stansbury, George Meyer, Ernie Burns and carver Bruce Eppard, we enjoyed a robust calendar of events this season as you can see in the photos below. If you have not seen the exhibit yet, it runs until November 12. (And in response to a member's request, the exhibit poster is available; \$10 unframed, \$35 framed and as a jigsaw puzzle, too!)



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are an all-volunteer run organization that utilizes the gifts and talents of so many Oxfordians. Perhaps you are new to Oxford and have an interest and some time to spare? Or maybe you have been here a long time, and in the coming year you see more time available to join in on Museum activities!

Become a docent, the best way to learn about the Museum, Oxford's rich history and meet the many interesting people who visit our town.

Join the building and grounds team, our board members care for our property, inside and out, but maybe you have talents and time to lend?

Email us and let us know your interests!

Once the Decoy exhibit opened, we were seeing ducks all over the place!



Have you enjoyed Duck Donuts?



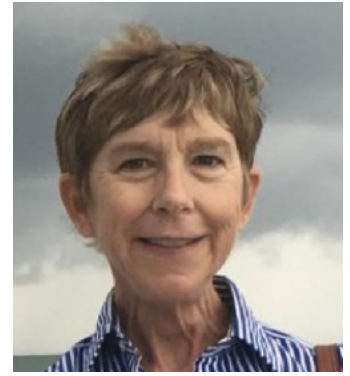
Oddly shaped sweet potatoes?



Or a ducky day at the course?

FROM THE DOCENT'S DESK: Karina Paape's View

There was no greater joy for me during this past spring and summer than standing watch at the docent desk! Visitors from the Model A Club, the Grand Banks Club (8 trawlers), Biden's brother and sister-in-law, docents from other museums (Fauquier History Museum in Warrenton, VA and the Tilghman Watermen's Museum), a seventh generation Oxfordian who remembers eating ice cream at Bringman's, and five 80-plus year olds who popped into the museum while waiting for the Scottish Highland Creamery to open so they could refuel for their return trip to St. Michaels.



A fair share of people who arrived by sea stopped in while touring our lovely village, all of whom were, of course, entranced by Oxford. One family of transient boaters stopped by Oxford on their way to somewhere else, just to re-stock their supply of tonic water and butter! These accidental tourists loved both the Museum's exhibit and the Museum's Oxford timeline!



Don Jamieson, making progress on the decoy puzzle!

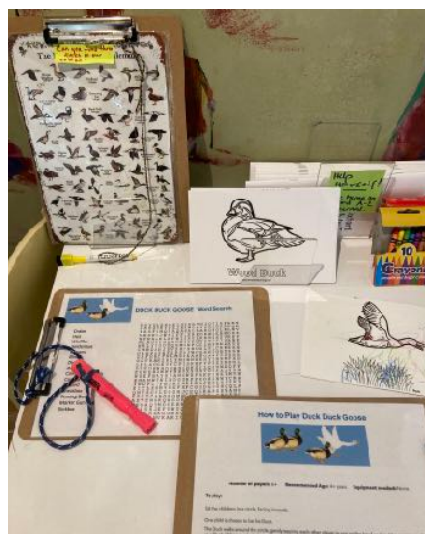
The cutest visitors were the kids who had no interest in the current decoy exhibit, but devoted 30-45 minutes working on our "impossible" puzzle; the degree of difficulty even drew some parents in on the action.

Many visitors who knew little about decoys asked: "Why don't you have any Ward brothers decoys?" I'd answer delicately so as not to make anyone feel bad: "This exhibit celebrates Talbot County carvers. The Ward brothers carved in Crisfield, 85 miles to the south in Somerset County." They left feeling a bit more knowledgeable about decoys.

I'd say that the typical visitor was exemplified by a couple from South Jersey who had no particular interest in decoys per se: "We just like history."

Karina is a board member and one of our "frequent flyer" docents. This season she has been a docent for 34 days at the Museum, so far, covering 102 hours at the docent desk. Thank you, Karina!

CHILDREN'S TABLE: Family Fun



At the Museum, we try to have activities available for our guests young and young at heart. Look for the little table with seek and find, coloring pages and other exhibit related materials to teach and entertain all of us.

You might also find one of our Oxford jigsaw puzzles laid out on another table, as Karina mentioned above, enticing guests to spend more time than intended at the Museum! Our Oxford jigsaw puzzles, depicting a few popular sites in Oxford, are available in the Museum Shop.

CRÈCHES: A Member's Collection

Whimsical and wonderful, each nativity scene offers something different to think about. Barbara Cross has over 100 crèches from around the world and many will be on display.

The three photographed here each share something of particular interest:

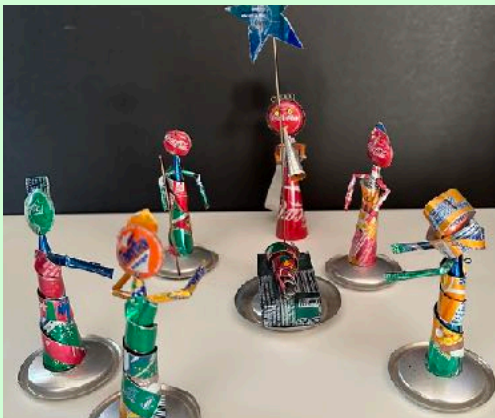
TOP PHOTO: Notice the unusual arrangement of Joseph holding baby Jesus with Mary sitting and holding his hand.

MIDDLE PHOTO: This nativity scene is made from soda cans, if you look closely, you can identify Coke, Sprite and Fanta!

BOTTOM PHOTO:

While it looks like folded paper, porcelain is the material used in this graceful arrangement

Don't miss this fun holiday exhibit!



OXFORD VIGNETTES: Hurricane Hazel, October 1954

Oxford Vignettes are the monthly journal entries of Sara Benson, written in the 1950's, and shared by her cousin Cathy Schmitt in recent issues of Attraction Magazine. This October Attractions Magazine entry describes Hurricane Hazel, registering 103 mph winds on October 15, 1954 and bears interest to us as we face similar weather concerns at this time of year, living on the water. To enjoy the full journal entry, go to this link: <http://attractionmag.com/2023/09/27/oxford-vignettes-hurricane-hazel/>

The background details about Sara Benson, shared by Cathy Schmitt, tell the story of several connected notable Oxford families and their houses in the early 1900's:

Bill and Sara Benson were close cousins of my family who lived up the street. Throughout their lives they enriched those who surrounded them with their community involvement, faith, grace, and generous neighborly manners. Sara kept a journal every year of her life in Oxford and Captain Bill kept a daily weather book throughout his time as ferry Captain of the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry. They were anchors in the town of Oxford, steadfast and kind, they were a pleasure to know.

William Lindale Benson was born in Bellevue on October 20, 1908. Sara Valliant Newnam was born on August 10, 1913, and grew up in the Grapevine House in Oxford. They married on Christmas Day in 1936 at the home of Joseph Newnam, her brother. After living in apartment above the "Towne Shoppe" in Oxford they moved to 315 North Morris Street in 1943, the year their son Dale Jr. was born. At their new home, Sara could watch Captain Bill and the ferry from her sink window and front porch. Captain Benson took over operations of the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry in 1938. His summer schedule ran 80-105 hours per week. Only winter ice kept the ferry from running, and the only day he took off was Christmas Day which was also his anniversary. He retired in 1974.

THANK YOU: Bonnie Richards and John Tochko

The Museum shares a special appreciation for two very generous Oxford souls for the new picket fence that now lives permanently in our Museum backyard. Our talented Oxford Artist and Board Member John Tochko designed and painted the double sided pickets, with the Museum's Yankee Pedler (that lives in front of the OCC) painted on the front side and the Maryland flag painted on the back side.

Museum member and friend Bonnie Richards was the high bidder at the Oxford Business Association's annual Picket Fence Auction and she doubled her generous gift by donating it back to the Museum! We are truly blessed with the best of volunteers, members, donors and friends of the Museum. Thank you Bonnie and John!



THANK YOU ALL for your generous support of The Oxford Museum.

We appreciate, and depend on, your membership renewals and your annual fund gifts. Members whose employers have matching grant programs, doubling or tripling their gift, significantly support our efforts at the Museum! Thank you.

*The Oxford Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Your donations are 100% tax deductible for income tax purposes.*