

Soundside Learning

This Week On Core Sound

Core Sound's Heritage Hits The Road

Core Sound Waterfowl Museum Attends Sylvan Heights' Earth Day

Continuing to build on the budding partnership between our two institutions, the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center was honored to attend the 2022 Earth Day celebration at the Sylvan Heights Bird Park on Saturday, April 23rd.

Visitors to Core Sound's own Earth Day event on April 8th and 9th may recall meeting the Sylvan Heights team as they spoke to students and members of the public on all things exotic birds, complete with previously hatched ostrich, owl, & flamingo eggs.

The Core Sound Museum was proud to add a bit of Core Sound's waterfowling heritage to this Earth Day celebration, with an exhibit allowing visitors to paint a one-of-a-kind Core Sound decoy head. Visitors young and old were able to learn about the rich and living history of Core Sound's waterfowling heritage and its evolution over time from a skill necessary for life - in putting food on the table - to a beloved art form renowned the world over. In painting these decoys, participants were also able to learn about the scientific side of waterfowling, where attention to detail can make all the difference.

It is often said that imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, and in the case of carving life-like decoys, flattery - of the ducks - is certainly a priority. Carvers and hunters alike must study the habits, preferences, and minute differences that might exist between various species as they seek to hone their talents and ability to draw those sought after flocks of waterfowl ever closer.

At the Sylvan Heights Earth Day celebration, visitors to the Core Sound exhibit had the benefit of painting their own RedHead decoy head, after which they could visit the Sylvan Heights North American collection to compare their work of art against a living Red Head!



A young man and his father display their Core Sound red head decoy.
Photo: CSWM&HC Collection



Sound Reading
Material For You &
Your Child

Fancy Nancy:
Everyday is Earth Day
By: Jane O'Connor

Learning to respect the environment is no small task, especially if you want to celebrate Earth Day every day of the week! Luckily, Nancy is on hand to make sure Mom, Dad, and her little sister do their part in being green—even if she has to keep reminding them. Nancy knows that she's helping her family do something very important, but will she take her enthusiasm for the environment a step too far?

Young Core Sounder Takes 1st In Carving Competition

Clay Michels Continues Carving Legacy of Father, Jason.

Benjamin Franklin once said “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.” There is perhaps no better example of this than the passing down of our heritage to the next generation. Though still important, it is not enough to simply “tell” of our culture’s past. To put one’s hands on their heritage, to actually do that which we are told about is the most secure way in which we can ensure that ours is not the last generation to pull in a mullet net, build a skiff, or in the case of young Clay Michels, carve a Core Sound decoy.

Clay’s father, Jason, comes from a long line of Core Sounders on his mother’s side. His great grandmother, Bertha Willis, was born on Shackleford Banks in the village of Diamond City in 1886. Her family eventually migrated to nearby Harkers Island around 1900 as the banks were largely deserted in favor of relatively storm-sheltered inland communities. Jason has been carving decoys practically his entire life, earning a multitude of accolades over the years at various competitions from North Carolina, to Maryland, and beyond.

As his son, Clay came of age and began to take an interest in the art of carving, Jason was all too eager to pass down some of his knowledge and expertise. Based upon the results of this past weekend at the world carving competitions at the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art in Salisbury, Maryland, Clay has been learning a thing or two from his dad.



From left to right, the first place decoys of Jason and Clay Michels.
Photo: Pam Morris, CSWM&HC Collections Manager

Clay took first place in the Youth Gunner Division II competition with his lesser scaup, commonly known among Core Sounders as a “blackhead”. His father also brought home his fair share of ribbons, sweeping the contemporary decoy division with first, second, and third place birds. This father and son carving duo are almost sure to continue to rack up blue ribbons in the future as Clay continues to learn from his father, once again furthering our waterfowling heritage to the next generation of Core Sounders.



Be On The Lookout ~ Core Sound On Canvas!

After a wonderful response from our first two trial sessions, Down East native and artist, Willis Irvine, is back at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center on Friday, April 29th from 6:00 until 8:30 for a night of Down East stories, delicious treats, and a unique art experience where YOU can create your own Core Sound Canvas.

[Click Here](https://www.coresound.com/event-info/springcsc) To Purchase Tickets! Or Visit <https://www.coresound.com/event-info/springcsc>

