



The National CALLMAKERS & COLLECTORS

Newsletter

www.ccaacalls.org

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COLLECTABLE CALLMAKER

Jim Dester, CCAA volunteer, joins duck call carving Masters

by Ed Glenn

It took an Oklahoma farm boy just over a year to make his mark in the carved duck call world. Jim Dester, now of Sycamore, Illinois, began making carved duck calls in December 2000, and by the spring of 2002 he claimed the 1st place and Best of Show awards at the National Wild Turkey Federation's annual competition. Along the way, Jim picked up two 2nd place ribbons and sold four calls at the CCAA contest in 2001, just four months after he took up the craft.

time," he says.

Jim admits to a bit of prior experience in wood working and carving, but his knowledge of duck calls only began when he met callmaker Bud Tyler. Bud was most helpful and became a close friend. Jim was also inspired by the work of Kent Freeman, Dennis Poeschel and other callmakers whose work he saw on the Internet.

Growing up in Oklahoma, Jim's duck hunting experi-

ence was limited to jump shooting a few ducks on live-stock ponds with his brothers. Calling them back after the first shots were fired was simply not their occasional sport. Only after his retirement did Jim consider making duck calls. Jim's mission is to bring to collectors new and exiting carvings, each call an individual in its own right.

But Jim also makes hunting calls. J. Swanson of Prescott, Wisconsin, says "your best buy may just be his hunting call because the sound and durability meld with the uniqueness of the construction and its stately good looks."

Jim's 2007 NWTF entries placed 1st and 4th in their working call category.

At left is Jim's entry in the NWTF 2007 competition which placed as the 2nd Best of Show in the Decorative Duck and Goose Call division.

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Jim Dester, callmaker and CCAA show coordinator was more than pleased with the participation in the CCAA's first working call competition at Reelfoot Lake last September.



"It was the most exciting weekend I've had in a long

President's Corner

If you have never been to the NWTF national convention, you should plan to go. I have bought calls at the auction for a number of years, but I had never actually been there. This year was the first time I attended.



James Bennett,
CCAA President

What an experience it was. I was lucky enough to leave with a few dollars in my pocket. Pictures of the calls on the web site do not do them justice at all. The Turkey & Duck Calls at the show were some of the best I have ever seen in one location. I was so happy to meet so many old friends and meet a few new ones. Hope the wife doesn't find out where the rent money went. You'll see photos of some of the people who attended in this issue. Next issue will include

photos of more of the winning calls.

The St. Charles Show is upon us. Our business meeting will be held on Friday at 8:00 am. If you do come to the show, please try to attend the meeting. The CCAA is only as strong as its members. We will be disusing a dues increase of \$5.00 a year and have our election for a new secretary. The pizza party and both a live and silent auction will be Friday night at 8:00pm. If you are interested in putting a call in the auction, contact me or Jim Thompson for details.

Please remember that the call show judging will be right after the close of our business meeting. All call entries need to be there at that time.

I would like to welcome Herb Ohley as our new membership chairman. He will be taking William Bailey's job. William has served the club for many years and I would like to thank him for doing such a great job. The CCAA would not be as strong today if it were not for members like William. Thanks again.

The Custom Callmakers and Collectors Guild has grown in membership and we are proud of what little role the CCAA has played in sharing our newsletter these past issues. The Guild plans their own newsletter for summer so this may be the last issue to go to Guild members.

CCAA dues were due January 1 and we have several new members. Most of you have renewed, but if you haven't, now is the time to do it.

Yours in Service



James Bennett, President

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- Call, write or e-mail our advertisers and thank them for supporting the National Callmakers & Collectors Newsletter. Consider adding your own ad.

The National CALLMAKERS & COLLECTORS Newsletter

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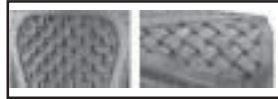
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Jim Dester, Callmaker, CCAA volunteer

Two unique features pioneered by Jim Dester are the fish scale and basket weave background pattern that he incorporates in many of his carved calls. Jim plans on adding more special features over the years to keep his carved calls interesting and a little different.



Jim has continued to add to his list of awards at both the NWTF and CCAA fancy call competitions with a CCAA Award of Merit in 2002, a CCAA President's Award in 2003, another NWTF Best of Show and a CCAA Best of Show in 2004, a CCAA Best of Show and President's Award in 2006 along with a Design Award in the open

class. Jim's second Best of Show at NWTF this year only foretells where he will place at the CCAA fancy call competition in April.

Bill Orgain, past president of CCAA, says of Jim "Your fish-scale pattern is unlike anything being crafted today. Your call is a magnet to the eye...you have to pick it up...hold it in your hands...and slowly rotate it around, in awe of the precision of the scales' spacing and beauty it evokes."



Jim Dester, in the center, was honored at the 2006 NWTF annual convention as one of seven Grand National Champion callmakers. He had placed Best of Show in the Decorative Duck and Goose call categories in both 2002 and 2004.



While the carved calls show Jim Dester's amazing carving skills, the display of this matched set adds to the reason this entry was judged 1st in the matched set division, Best of Class, Best of Show and the President's award at the 2006 CCAA fancy call competition.



Aside from his trophies, medallions and ribbons, Jim is proud to wear his Grand National Champion ring, presented by the NWTF, the first year such rings were awarded.

Callmaking is not Jim's only calling. He is a valuable volunteer in the Callmakers & Collectors Association of America organization. Jim maintains the CCAA web site at www.ccaacalls.org and serves as the CCAA show coordinator. He is dedicated to photographing every call in the NWTF duck and goose call competition and the CCAA fancy call and working call competitions. Each of those shows involves dozens of calls, and photos are posted many times within a few short days. Jim's photos are accompanied with a careful record of placing, callmaker and other details.

Jim Dester's calls can be seen on his website: www.quackcalls.com

Addictions and Obsessions...

by Stephen "Coulter" Steffy.

I still say they were sitting in the blind anticipating that unstable canoe to toss me into the frigid waters of Presque Isle Bay at any moment. I have a hunch they were snickering also. As the winds continued blowing, the current assisted them by dragging the downed redhead into deeper waters; deeper than my waders would allow for a retrieve.

The only option was to talk to the guys in the blind 75 yards down the shoreline from us and ask to borrow their canoe. They obliged with an impish smile. As the canoe was launched into the icy waters after the redhead, it appeared this venture was set for impending disaster. With the old square-orange style PFD merely draped around my neck for aesthetic purposes, I shoved off into the frigid bay.

After a few strokes of the paddle in the choppy waters, it dawned on me that this borrowed canoe was so unstable if you simply shifted your eyes to the right or left the canoe would follow suit and begin its attempt at dumping its load. Before I was halfway to my intended target the paddle was encrusted with a sheet of ice making it difficult to grip. Gloves would have been a nice option for some sure-to-be frostbitten hands.

Contrary to the sheer determination of this tipsy canoe, the mission was ultimately achieved. Luckily with no ill repercussions as the questionably seaworthy vessel slid back onto the frozen shoreline without incident. I believe to this day those generous duck hunters let me borrow their unstable canoe merely for entertainment purposes. Nevertheless, the downed bird was added to the game bag. I must say, I don't think a duck has ever tasted better than that particular hard-earned redhead.

So the questions arise – what is it that makes hunters carry out such incredibly foolish feats? Why do we pursue such perilous exploits? Are we all born without one vital gene that says “don't do that stupid”? Okay, you guys can chime in anytime now. I know I'm not the only one out there that lives in the woods, swamps and fields with an adventuresome attitude. Or, maybe that is why nobody wants to go hunting with me anymore. Maybe, just maybe, this could be why my wife worries so much when I venture out on solo excursions into the vast forest or swamps of Pennsylvania. In my own defense, I did bring my hunting partner back alive from the cliffhanger (meant in a literal sense) incident in Roper Hollow last year. And we were only eight hours late, but that is another story.

The life of a hunter, trapper, fisherman, outdoorsman is perplexing. I suppose it could be considered to be an addiction by some. Though, I prefer to look at it as more of

an obsession. Each new adventure ultimately leads us into another. If there is any chance of adventure involved, that makes it even better.



Stephen considers a snow storm in Pennsylvania the ideal weather for a duck hunt. The proof here is a Bufflehead and redhead taken in the midst of a gentle snow fall. Steven makes duck calls under the name North Bay Custom Calls.

Last year was not my first year of duck hunting. However, it was the most enlightening. I had hunted ducks a few times in previous years, but the adventure just wasn't there. I cannot honestly say what was different last year when compared to previous years, but it really hit me like that iceberg hit the Titanic...it caught me by surprise and has been relentless in the grip it has taken on me.

I cite the duck hunting incident at the beginning of this article. Mainly due to the fact that it has brought me around to yet another hobby - call making (sorry honey). I am a traditional type of guy. I thrive on getting to the meat and bones of my endless pursuits. I believe it was towards the end of last season that it dawned on me to make an attempt at making some of my own calls. I have tied my own flies for fishing; trapped furs and made garments from them; reloaded my own ammo; etc., etc., so why not try making my own calls as well.

Alas, we are safe from the unforgiving hand of nature's misgivings in the wood shop. We are bound to our own careless mishaps here. There is only one person to blame for sanding the flesh off of your knuckles with 80 grit sand-

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CROW CALL CORNER

by Steve Ribeau

This is first in a series of articles dedicated to crow calls, their identity and at times maybe a little history of their makers. We will have several contributors or writers for these articles, each of us will have a little different perspective on the subject, each will try to expose our readers to collecting a call that has had very little exposure in any form of the media. Some of our articles will be interactive, as there will be a section where several, unknown calls will be pictured to be identified by the readers, the results will be featured in later articles. Each article should give us all some of the missing information we have been looking for about the calls we have in our collections or in the box under the bench. Our intent is to create these articles that will help the green to the advanced collector with a pictorial collection that can be used for identification.

Those of us who collect calls probably have picked up a few crow calls, either on purpose or by necessity when we had to “buy them all or he won’t sell them” to get the one or two calls we really wanted. So all the other calls were treated as less than desirable as they were duplicates or low value non-collectables. In my case the crow calls had their own little place in a box separate from what I felt were really the collectible calls, the duck calls. After all, the books on the subject usually devoted 99% percent of publication to duck calls, so the lowly little crow call didn’t get any attention from me. While the authors did cover to some extent the fact that some of the masters did make crow calls, very little coverage was really offered to the crow call. A notable exception is Brian McGrath’s fine book

Addictions and Obsessions...

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paper mounted in your belt sander. There is only one person that catches the flak for applying a Dremel tool to the meat of your leg at 35,000 RPM’s. I am speaking from experience when I say that stuff hurts and takes a while to heal.

The point here is that we all thrive on different pursuits. We all do so for different reasons or values. Most likely, we are all obsessed with one or more of these interests for one reason or another.

As for the questions of why we do what we do; well, I have no idea at this point. The jury is still out. Please, whatever you do, don’t try to get an answer to these questions from your significant other. The answer is sure to be filled with propaganda to discourage your activities. Personally, I would rather not know; I think that would take the adventure out of it.

Duck Calls and other Game Calls, his chapter eight on other game calls, is a virtual treasure chest of crow call pictures and identifications. However total number of printed copies of this book was limited to 900, so if you do not own one, finding one may be difficult.

The first in our identity series will be those crow calls produced by the Green Head Co. LaSalle Ill. For the history of this company, please refer to Bob Christensen’s book, *Duck Calls of Illinois 1863-1963*. The Green Head products were made famous by their patented adjustable reed assemblies, referred to as Adjustable-Tone. This was carried over to many of their crow calls.



The one call probably seen most often is the all-plastic Adjustable-Tone. This call as you can see came in a number of color combinations, 7 different examples are shown; contact us if you know of other combinations. The adjusting knobs on those I have seen are either black or brown. The nibs shown here are green, black or brown, while the bells are orange, green or gold. Some bells appear to have been factory drilled for a lanyard.

Embedded inside the walnut barrel of this Ted Williams brand crow call that Green Head made under contract with Sears is an Adjustable-Tone. One of two different models that employed a spiffy little gold anodized band that looked like the fancy brass band employed by the custom call makers at the time. The words Ted Williams Adjustable Crow Call are embossed into the band. The wood barrel used in this call is not found in other crow calls produced by Green Head. There may be other colored bells to be identified, while I have only seen the orange version, we know they also made at least gold and green in the standard model.



Continued on page 6

CROW CALL CORNER



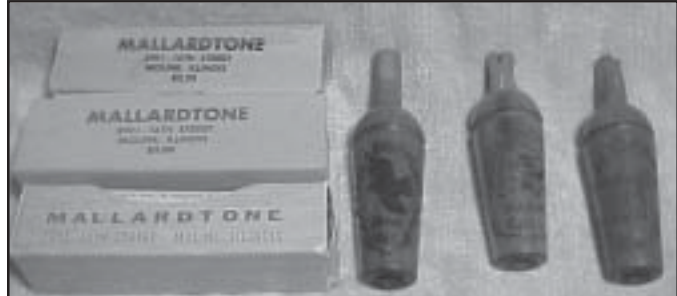
This is one of the most often located, non-adjustable crow calls they made, and the walnut barrels were embossed with a name of the seller. Shown here left to right are the Wild Life, Green Head with an address and a totally unmarked version. The Wild Life version was supplied to the White Owl Cigar Co. for a promotional effort. I believe during the late 1940's or early 1950's, you could send in cigar bands and a dollar or so to buy one of many models of promotional calls. This crow call was one that was offered, most of Green Head's wood barreled calls of all types were available and embossed Wild Life. The packaged call says Green Head but does not have an embossed address. All the nibs shown here are black however I suspect that there are brown nib versions of this call out there.



Another popular version is the banded walnut barreled call; a gold anodized band is embossed with the name of the seller or at times a plain band and an embossed barrel. From left to right we have a Sears with black nibs, J C Higgins embossed barrel with brown nibs, JC Higgins boxed call with Sears embossed on the band with brown nibs. The last is an unusual Ben Lee call with a decal on the barrel. The gold band has been ground to remove a name; did Green Head or Ben Lee do this, was this a call that was an overrun maybe for Sears and salvaged to sell under another private label contract? There also may be a version out there with Green Head embossed into the band.



All of the unknown calls, shown here, have walnut barrels; the nibs vary in materials and are described separately. The dimensions are as close as I can provide, the outside diameter will be referred to as O.D., the over all length, will be referred to as O.A.L., and the bore will be called the I.D. The assembled O.A.L. is as shown in the pictures, are assembled to the rings on the nibs as provided by the call maker. **A-1** has Osage orange nibs, the barrel measures 1.115 O.D., exit I.D. .500, .625 I.D. entry, tapered step drilled. The barrel O.A.L. is 3.070 while the assembled O.A.L. is 3.900. **A-2** looks like a brother to A-3, the nibs in A-2 are most likely maple painted black. The barrel is 1.170 O.D., exit I.D. .575 with a .750 I.D. tapered entry bore. Barrel O.A.L. 3.510 and is 3.850 O.A.L. assembled. **A-3** has maple nibs with a clear finish, measures 1.310 O.D. exit I.D. is .580 with a .750 I.D. entry. This call has an unusual feature, between the nibs and the exit hole; the call is spherically glided, and something I have never seen. Barrel O.A.L. 3.545 and is 4.845 O.A.L. assembled. **A-4** has maple unusual flat nips, no finish, the barrel is 1.460 O.D., exit I.D. is .640 and has an entry I.D. of .850. The barrel O.A.L. measures 3.610 and assembled is 4.750. O.A.L. **A-5** has black micarta nibs, no finish, with a 1.210 O.D.; exit I.D. of .530 with an entry I.D. of .690. Barrel O.A.L. is 3.445 and measures 5.080 O.A.L. assembled.



Another Illinois call maker, Mallardtone from Moline, also made crow calls. While they made only one basic model they had at least three different packages. The oldest package is shown on the top with what may have been the second version and the latest at the bottom. The call shown to the right of the packaging is the same in all three cases. An interesting variation to the right of the crow call is a Hawk call. All of Mallardtone's calls I have seen have been hot branded with their graphics; call type and their name. The call on the far right made by Mallardtone was private labeled for St. Croix in Park Falls Wisconsin. St. Croix had a well-respected line of fishing tackle, outdoor hunting clothing and a game call line.

2007 CCAA Fancy Call Contest set for St. Charles, IL, April 27-28

Mark your calendar - April 27-28, 2007 is the date for the CCAA Fancy Call Contest in St Charles, IL. Start making plans now and get busy making that award winning call.

This year all contest calls must be entered by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 27. In the past, the calls were entered right before and after the show opened at 2:00 p.m. It was several hours after the show opened before the winners were known and a lot of the public did not see which calls were the winners. By judging Friday morning, winners will be displayed with ribbons when the show opens.

Here are the details: The entry fee is \$10.00 per entry. All entries must be received by 10 a.m. on Friday, April 27. Entries will be received in the Ruby Room, located on the 2nd level of the Pheasant Run Resort tower beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, April 27. At 8:00 a.m. The CCAA business meeting will convene in the Ruby Room and calls may be entered after the business meeting until 10:00 a.m. Judging will begin at 10:00 a.m. in order to be completed by the opening of the show at 2:00 p.m.

All entries must include the entry fees and a completed entry form. Callmakers must be members of the Callmakers

& Collectors Association of America. Dues may be paid and new members may join at the time of entering a call. Contest rules, entry forms and membership application forms can be found at www.ccaacalls.org.

Entries may be made by mail addressed to:

Jim Dester

142 Rowantree Rd

Sycamore, IL 60178

phone 1-815-899-3060;

James Bennett

511 Canning Plant Road

Seffner, FL 33584

phone 1-813-310-8875 or

Herb Ohley

2925 Ethel Ave.

Alton, IL 62002

phone 1-618-465-5235.

Please include return postage and insurance if you do not intend to also enter your call in the silent auction.

Anyone interested in being a judge, please contact Jim Dester at quackcalls@tbcnet.com or 815-899-3060.

Auction of both Antique and Contemporary Calls set for St. Charles show


The 2007 Annual Meeting at St. Charles will bring some changes to the format of our annual auction. This year there will be two segments to the auction.

The traditional George Campbell Memorial live auction will be for items expected to sell for \$500 or more. The consignment fee to benefit CCAA will remain a very reasonable \$5.00. If a live auction item sells, an additional \$25.00 fee to the CCAA will be assessed against the hammer price. As always, the owner or his designee may bid on his own item up to his minimum price. In other words, the owner or his designee may shill his own item. All fees are waived if all proceeds of the sale are donated to CCAA, and donated items are greatly appreciated.

Items for the live auction may be sent to Jim Thomp-

son, 3902 Kimpalong Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205, Phone (615) 292-5831 or brought to Jim's room at the Pheasant Run Resort prior to the auction.

A silent auction will be open for items expected to sell for less than \$500. Calls for the silent auction may be sent to James Bennett at 511 Canning Plant Road, Seffner, FL 33584, Phone (813) 310-8875 or brought to James' room at Pheasant Run. In any event, a phone call to James or Jim should be made in advance to assure a space for your item. It is hoped that this change in format will make for a good time for all in a more enjoyable fashion for consignors and bidders alike. As always, the auction will be held in conjunction with the Annual Pizza Party. Hope to see you there



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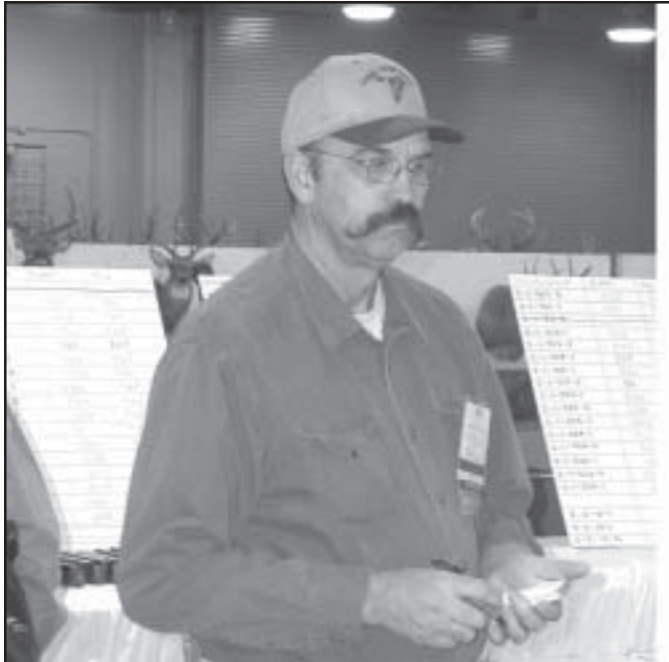
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Wild Calling
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NWTF annual convention big venue for Callmakers and Collectors

The National Wild Turkey Federation annual convention includes a fiercely competitive callmaking competition. While the real attention is on turkey calls, divisions for duck and goose makers attract some of the very best of that craft. Space and time limit our coverage of the show except to show some of the folks who were there.

Complete judging results can be found at <http://www.ccaacalls.org/nwtf2007.html> and http://www.nwtf.org/special_events/Call_Making_Results.php



Bob Wiseman of Winchester, Tennessee, intently studies the score boards at the NWTF annual convention in Nashville. Bob picked up ribbons in several categories and makes notes of all. His calls were among the tops in the silent auction.



Collector Walt Williams of Fenton, MI, enters a silent bid as NWTF officials look on. The silent auction table was long, indeed.



Herb Ohley of Alton, IL, could hardly hold his delight when he sold this working call to World Champion caller Mike McLemore. Herb placed in several duck and goose call categories including 1st in a hunting short reed category.



Author Jim Fleming at the CCAA booth shows off some of the calls that will be featured along with their makers in his new book on contemporary callmakers. The new book is said to feature more than 100 callmakers and is expected off the press next month.



Guild President Preston Lawson stirs members' names before drawing another prize winner at the Custom Callmakers and Collectors Guild booth. Callmaker Don Clark works a pot call in the background.



Todd Hanson from Meridian, Idaho, right and his father Bert were caught together in the aisles at Nashville. Todd picked up ribbons in several categories in the Decorative Duck & Goose Call Division.



Here's a group of pals ganged together as they looked down the aisles of silent auction items. From left: Bob Wiseman, Danny Wells, Jim Dester and Herb Ohley.

Thanks to Herb Ohley and Jim Dester for the photos on these pages.

Best of Show in the Decorative Duck and Goose Call division went to Kent Freeman with this carved and colored beauty that also won 1st in the Open category.



Callmaker Greg Wilkinson, left, dropped in to visit with Team American (Friction). Bruce Wurth is at right (see his profile on page 11) with Ron Martin and Bobby Mac (Robert McCrary) to his right.



Ray and Mariellen Robertson of Nixa, Missouri, were two of the many people at the NWTF National Convention. Ray holds his 1st place call in the laminated category.



Long-time CCAA Membership Chairman William Bailey turns the job and records over to Herb Ohley. Look for a feature about William in an upcoming issue.

COLLECTABLE CALLMAKER

Hunter, Volunteer, Bruce Wurth is Grand National Callmaker

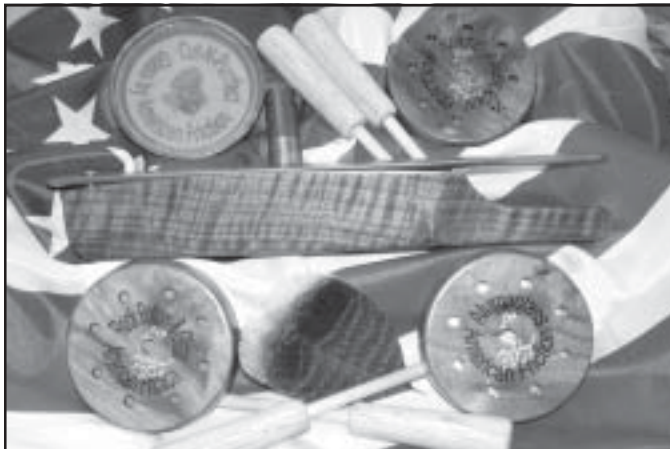
By Ed Glenn

Imagine buying an NWTG Grand National friction call for less than \$40. Or an NWTG Grand National long box call for less than \$100.

Well, maybe not the very same ones, but Bruce Wurth of Suisun, California, makes the very same calls from the very same materials that sound the very same as he made those Grand National winners. And he sells them for those prices.

It was a long road that led Bruce to making his first turkey call in 1998. He had been hunting deer and pheasant with his father beginning in 1962 and he has hunted turkeys in California for more than 27 years. His turkey hunts have led him to Alabama, Georgia, Oklahoma, Texas, Oregon, Florida, Wyoming and Montana, and he has harvested all four sub-species of wild turkeys in America.

Bruce joined the NWTG in 1989 and has served in several capacities in that organization including President of the California Board. He was acknowledged by the NWTG with the Roger M. Latham Sportsman's Service Award for outstanding volunteer work in America.



A fine set of working turkey calls from Bruce's American Friction Turkey Talk Shop in Suisun, California. This group was donated to the NWTG.

Guided hunts on the Tajon Ranch, numerous turkey hunting seminars and significant contribution to the "California Turkey Hunters Guide" are part of Bruce's turkey hunting experience. He's an NRA Turkey Hunting Clinic Instructor and is a Certified Game Hunter Education Instructor in California.

Not only is Bruce an accomplished hunter, guide and instructor, he's also a calling competitor. He's won several turkey calling competitions including the California State Championship on two occasions.



Just look at the beards on these birds and the grins on these hunters! Bruce Wurth, in the middle, is just as proud of his son Justin at right and Justin's, friend Alex at left with his first bird.

With this background, Bruce started his American Friction callmaking in 1998 and his Glass (Rock Bottom) friction call jumped from 4th place at the NWTG Grand National show in 2002 to Best of Show and the D. D. Adams Award the very next year. It's companion, the Alumaglass call has been nearly as big an award winner for Bruce.

But it was the long box that has brought more ribbons than any. From 1999 through 2003, Bruce's long box calls

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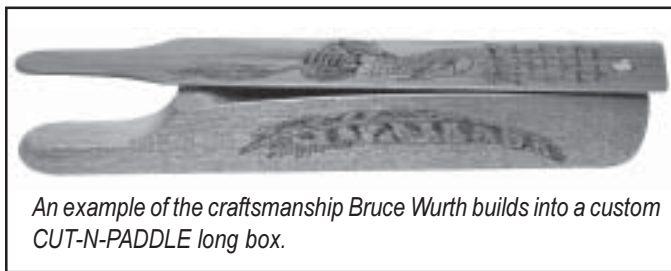
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have finished in the top four, picking up the Gibson Award in 2002. Bruce is the only callmaker to have won both the D.D. Adams and Gibson Awards at the NWTG Grand National competition.

“I concentrate on quality of sound,” Bruce says. “Since the beginning, my goal at American Friction has been to produce innovative, high quality, and the best sounding products.”

That may well be why his calls have been acknowledged with the many awards they have won, including high placement for his customers in calling competitions.

In recent years, Bruce has been teaching other members of the American Friction team to build calls like his award winners, and they have learned well. Bobby Mac (Robert McCrary) placed 2nd with a Glass(Rock Bottom) call and 3rd with an Alumaglass call at the 2006 Grand



An example of the craftsmanship Bruce Wurth builds into a custom CUT-N-PADDLE long box.

Nationals and Ron Martin placed 6th in 2007 with an Alumaglass design. Bruce himself picked up 2nd in the friction call category with a slate call in 2007.

American Friction offers a variety of pot and striker calls for under \$40, including an Aluminum Custom Call Kit for a mere \$19.95. Box calls are a bit more complex and a bit more expensive running up to a Special Edition “CUT-N-PADDLE” call made from instrument grade Mahogany at \$500.00.

Bruce promises even the \$100 CUT-N-PADDLE call will reach out and get ‘em a half-mile away or sweet talk ‘em the last yard. “Its an easy call to run. I want it to be your go to call in the turkey woods,” he says.

All American Friction calls are hand tuned and produced in limited quantities.

You can shop American Friction calls at www.americanfriction.com

Coming Events

April 27 & 28: Midwest Decoy Collector’s Show and CCAA Fancy Call competition, Pheasant Run Resort, St Charles, IL. www.edecoy.com/

June 29-July 1: 21st Annual National American Association of Woodturners Symposium, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR. www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2007/

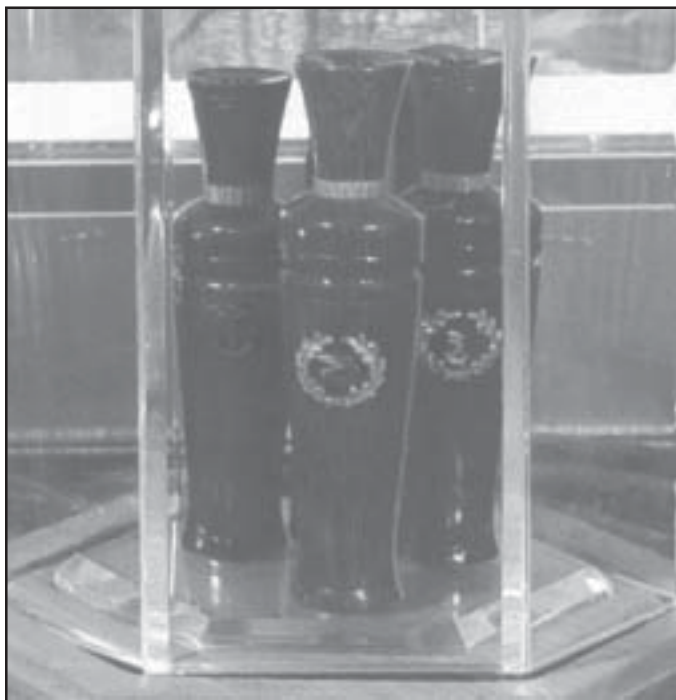
The Cairo set by Wild Calls LTD commemorates the Civil War ironclad USS Cairo and its 100-year repose on the bottom of the Yazoo River

The Union iron clad war ship, the USS Cairo, patrolled the Mississippi River during the Civil War. On December 12, 1862, she ventured into the Yazoo River, a tributary of the Mississippi and was sunk at the hands of Confederate forces. She was the first war ship in history to be sunk by an electronically detonated explosive.

The Cairo remained in the mud on the bottom of the Yazoo River for more than a century, but when finally raised, she broke in two and a few small pieces of her heavy oak planking broke free. Callmakers Fred Hinkel and son-in-law Roger Brakefield acquired these rare historic bits of wood at a cost much greater than most callmakers will pay for a life time of callmaking material.

The Cairo set of three reelfoot style calls made from this salvaged wood, commemorate the ship and its fate, and its crew, none of whom were lost.

Housed in a glass case, the USS Cairo Commemorative Set of historically significant calls will be on display at various venues across the country before being offered for sale by Fred’s company Wild Calls LTD. See the company’s other offerings at www.wildcallsltd.com.



The USS Cairo Commemorative Set includes a Captain’s Call with gold and platinum inlays of the Naval insignia and a 14 carat gold reed. The Officers Call has sterling silver inlay of the 1862 Naval insignia and a sterling silver reed. The Enlisted Man’s Call is inlaid with a bronze anchor and has a bronze metal reed.

COLLECTABLE CALLMAKER

A Callwright with class, Jack Wright carves box calls to suit

Callmaking was not something Jack Wright had in mind or even thought of when he retired from R.R. Donnelley Printing Company. His thoughts gravitated toward making Queen Anne style furniture and refinishing and repairing antiques, which he did for awhile. But, not coincidentally, the door opened to callmaking. Not being a turkey hunter (frog gigging, fishing, and coon hunting, but not turkey hunting), it took having a friend, Norm Myer, a retired game warden and avid turkey hunter, to spark an interest in callmaking. Six years ago Norm had a Redbud tree and that wood challenged Jack to make a turkey call.

"That's what got me hooked!", says Jack. Redbud calls, appearing like yellow cherry and carrying a good sound as well, became his bread and butter calls.

"Stradivarius didn't play the violin either," Jack says but he was quite confident in his ability to produce calls that would bring in a bird. He encourages owners of his calls to return them if they are not satisfied, and when they get a bird with one of his calls to send a picture. Nothing thrills him more than to get a picture of the bird and hunter and to chat with the hunter or another callmaker.

Jack has chased wood for thirty years, and a large va-

elder, osage orange, purpleheart, honey locust, Alaskan sitka, and many others, and scrimshaws calls with whatever design the customers choose. Jack has over eight hundred patterns from which you can choose. Or he'll do one supplied by a customer. You may find scrimshawed folk art humor on some calls—Jack likes Ohio folk art.

A unique feature of the Wright Call, you will find, is the dropped handle—he is one of the few makers doing that (all different, many carved). The paddle may become a violin, a full carved bird back with bird head handle, a rattlesnake, or a rococo carved Kentucky Rifle with inlaid brass. Some of Jack's latest features are dovetailing and ivory inlay. A wood description is inside each box, along with the "Wright Call" logo shaped like a cross, the right call being Jesus—Jack has expressed that in everything he does he wants to glorify Him.

A Wright Call won second place in the Unfinished



Jack Wright hand carves another "Wright Call" in his shop at Attica, OH. Jack claims "In time I can make U what U want."

riety with choice pieces to make a call of anyone's choosing. He enjoys trying new wood combinations not limiting himself to what he knows already to be good. Challenges in design, style or type of wood are to him like a dog being told, "sic 'em"! Birdseye and curly maple are his favorites, but he likes and uses curly and spotted box



From violins to Kentucky rifles, Jack decorates the lids of turkey box call with exquisite carving and inlay work.

Carved Class at the 2001 NWTF Convention. Jack is a member of the NWTF, the CCAA, and supports WTF Chapters in Ohio and other states. Jack's calls are on display at the NWTF Museum in Edgefield, South Carolina, and he is featured in Earl Mickel's third book *Longbeards Callmakers, and Memories*.

Jack says he received parental encouragement as a youth to create, carve and his dad's coal carvings impressed him. He holds in high regard his mentors Earl Mickel, Barry Kevlin, Norm Myer, Jim Gronier, Ray Berryhill, and many friends he has made since becoming a turkey callwright. He says he's happy and blessed and thanks his wife and family for their encouragement and support.

The Wrights have been married 44 years, have four children and three grandchildren. Call Jack for "the Wright Call." (419) 426-8072.

Online call competition enthusiasum fizzled when it was time to enter

Wade Carpenter, Rob Asher and Ed Glenn set up an "online call competition" last winter based on wide interest among Custom Calls Online forum members. World Champion Caller Jim James agreed to record a call routine for each entry for posting on the forum. All forum members could rank each entry and through that ranking system the calls were placed.

Entries were sent to Ed who then identified them by number only and forwarded them to Jim. Jim made the sound files and sent them to Wade. Wade hosted the sound files and Rob wrote the program for listening and ranking each call. Each forum member could vote only once.

After the voting was complete and the calls ranked,

Ed posted photos of each call along with the callmakers identity. Only four callmakers entered five calls. There seemed to be much more interest from CCO members.

Jim also made a second sound file for each entry in which he added his critique. He pointed out the best aspects of the call, and where, in his opinion, the call was lacking. These critique files were first e-mailed to only the callmakers, but all agreed they could be posted on the forum to serve as a learning experience to all CCO members.

This was a fun little contest that also produced some valuable callmaking information. It may well be repeated again in 2007, but not during duck season.



From left: 1st place - Randy Gill of Azyle, TX, with a stabilized Maple barrel and modified Grassy Creek stopper Arkansas style; 2nd place - Wade Carpenter of ??? CO, with a Cocobolo barrel and Bocote stopper Arkansas style; 3rd place, Herb Ohley of Alton, IL, with a Bocote barrel and stopper with Osage Orange Louisiana style toneboard; 4th place - Bill Jacobsen of Omaha, NE, with an Osage Orange barrel and stopper Arkansas style and 5th place - Herb Ohley of Alton, IL, with a Blackwood barrel and stopper Arkansas style.

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Commentary

by Ed Glenn

It may well be true that “when three or more Americans get together, they elect a President.”

Organizations of all kinds magnify the interests of the members they serve, whether it be a group of stockholders in a corporation or folks of common beliefs in a political party. While members of any organization come and go depending on how well the organization serves their individual interests, most organizations attract members depending on the kinds of folks who are already members. It is, of course, possible for an organization to change its mission to serve a broader or somewhat different membership, but that takes time and is rarely a dramatic change. A

statement of an organization’s mission is not the operative factor, more important is what the organization does.

And that’s the way it is, in my opinion, with the Callmakers and Collectors Association of America (CCAA) and the Custom Callmakers and Collectors Guild (the Guild).

The CCAA has been around for 20 years, organized by a group of duck call collectors and callmakers. It has grown to well over 400 members today, most of whom are still interested in duck calls. Collecting duck calls has been a popular pursuit because for more than a century, callmakers have been making duck calls and there are many types, kinds and regions available for collecting as a hobby, both casual and very, very serious efforts.

Today, nearly every serious duck hunter owns several duck calls, most of which come from a large manufacturer, but many are crafted by contemporary callmakers. These duck hunters and the craftsmen who make their calls have naturally gravitated toward the other major waterfowl, geese. Goose calls are similar to duck calls.

In recent years, turkey populations have reached sustainable levels and nearly every state has a turkey season. Turkey hunters also call birds into range but with calls of significantly different design and style. Since turkey hunting is a relatively new sport, there is not a lot of antique turkey calls available for the collector, but rather some custom turkey call makers turn out true pieces of art.

It’s no wonder then that turkey call collectors and callmakers would feel lost in the membership of CCAA because of the CCAA’s long history of dominance by duck and goose call enthusiasts.

The recent formation of the Guild, whose rapidly growing membership is predominately interested in turkey calls, was inevitable. The boost given by the CCAA in that membership growth may have been a factor, but the real impetus has been the enthusiasm of the Guild’s leadership.

To be sure, there will be some overlap. Some duck call collectors and callmakers also collect and make turkey calls. Some turkey call collectors and callmakers also collect and make duck calls. Some individuals will be members of both organizations just like some investors will buy stock in two or more corporations.

As editor of the CCAA newsletter, I have been pleased to have included material submitted by Guild members and to have included them in our mailing list. Congratulations are now in order to the Guild’s organizers for growing their membership list to the level that they can produce their own newsletter. It appears this is the last issue of the National Callmakers & Collectors Newsletter that will go to Guild members. Their own Summer ’07 issue will be headed up by Stephen “Coulter” Steffy, and to him and his newsletter committee, I wish the greatest success.

Application for Membership Callmakers & Collectors Association of America

New Member Renewal Date: _____

Name (Please type or print) _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Phone: (____) _____

Are you a callmaker? ___ Yes ___ No

I am a ___ Custom Callmaker ___ Call Manufacturer

I make: ___ Duck ___ Goose ___ Turkey ___ Predator ___ Other

Are you a collector? ___ Yes ___ No

My interests are: ___ Antiques & Classic ___ Contemporary ___ Competition

I collect: ___ Duck & Goose ___ Crow ___ Turkey ___ Predator ___ All Game Calls

Specify type or maker: _____

RECRUITING MEMBER: _____

All new members dues start the following month they join CCAA at the rate of \$2.00 per month thru December of that year. New members joining in December would pay the full membership fee of \$25.00 for the coming new year. Circle month joined and send \$2.00 for the remainder of the year. JAN. FEB. MAR. APR. MAY JUNE JULY AUG. SEPT. OCT. NOV. DEC. Upon receipt of dues, new member will receive a membership list and a copy of the latest news letter.

All old members dues expire December 31, of the present year. New year starts January 1, with a two month grace period. If dues are not paid within this time period, your name will be omitted from the CCAA membership files. Reinstatement is welcome at anytime with full membership dues. We appreciate your interest in call collecting.

1 year Membership dues (U.S.) = \$25.00, (outside U.S.) = \$28.00 U.S. dollars, 3 years Membership dues (all) = \$70.00, 5 years Membership dues (all) = \$115.00.

**Mail application and dues in U.S. dollars to:
Herb Ohley 2925 Ethel Ave. Alton, IL. 62002**

Make checks payable to: Callmakers & Collectors Association

Trading Post

Wanted: Thurman McCann Delta Mallard call. Call (770)548-4961.

For Sale: Mint Dan Searcy turkey call, w/ letter from Dan, mint Swiney Rayfield turkey call, w/ letter from Swiney, mint first volume of Earl Mickel's book, "Turkey Callmakers, Past and Present" and an autographed mint second volume of Mickel, "Turkey Callmakers, The Rest of the Best". All four pieces - \$1,700.00. They are in perfect, mint condition. Money back guarantee. gorski22@comcast.net, or call (586) 296-2336 evenings.

Wanted: J.C. Higgins duck calls; pheasant, quail calls. Tony Scott 316-729-5970.

For Sale: individual turkey calls and books. Too many to list, but a lot of them came from the George Campbell collection. Many signed by the carver, or maker. gorski22@comcast.net, or call (586) 296-2336 evenings.

Wanted: A fancy duck or goose call in exchange for a deluxe turkey call. Jack Wright, the "turkey call Wright" (419) 426-8077.

Wanted: Buy, Sell, Trade items for the "Trading Post," free to CCAA members. flyfisherman@windwave.org or call (541) 481-3151.

**The National
CALLMAKERS AND COLLECTORS
Newsletter**
www.ccaacalls.org
2925 Ethel Ave.
Alton, IL 62002



The C.C.A.A. was formed in 1987 as a non-profit organization for callmakers and call collectors. The primary objectives are to further an awareness of call collecting as a hobby, assist members in the location, identification, and trading of collectable calls, and to promote and encourage the perpetuation of the art form through contemporary callmakers.

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