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MASTER DECOY CARVER, by Ron Rue, 4 June 2003

Ron Rue, a “Master” waterfowl carver tells the story of waterfowl carving in Dorchester County. And exhibits a few examples of his work.

Dorchester County renowned for its abundance of waterfowl, attracts hunters who use decoys to attract the prey. Over the years, people began to collect decoys not for hunting purposes but for historical and ornamental reasons. As a result, decoy carving has become an art and Dorchester County has fostered its share of very fine carvers such as Ron Rue, who has been recognized as a Master Decoy Carver.

Born and raised in Cambridge, Maryland, Ron has been hunting and carving waterfowl for most of his life and has known and learned from other famous carvers such as the Ward brothers. His work has become known internationally and he is particularly "....proud to have been inducted in the Decoy Museum in Havre de Grace in 1997 with all those old and dead carving greats!". Mr. Rue has exhibited in every Easton Waterfowl Festival since it began in 1971. "I get great pleasure seeing my old friends there every year", he quips. Not only is he a Master Carver, but he takes great enjoyment in teaching. He has been doing this for over thirty years and takes pride in the fact that he is, in some instances, teaching second generation students.