



The National CALLMAKERS & COLLECTORS Newsletter

www.ccaacalls.org

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Fall 2006

Collectable Callmaker

Scott Bartholomew combines turkey hunting with callmaking

by Ed Glenn

Visiting callmaker Scott Bartholomew in his shop is like having a private lesson in trumpet making. After a bit of show and tell, Scott demonstrated the process, nearly from start to finish in little more than an hour.

Our conversation really got down to talking shop when Scott brought out a trio of finished yelpers and demonstrated a series of calls on each. Different in outward beauty, Scott's calls have a remarkable similarity in tone, nearly indistinguishable from each other in the music of the turkey.



Three field grade trumpets turned by Scott Bartholomew are more likely to end up on someone's wall that to see hard use in the field.

With a full time day job, Scott has moved recently and his new shop quarters are crammed into a former utility room. Lathe, drill press, belt sander, band saw, jointer and power hack saw, not to mention blocks of wood stuffed in every available cranny, leave little room for even a second person. But from this tiny space come highly functional things of beauty.

"No matter how pretty they are, I ask all my customers to take my calls to the woods at least once," Scott says. Even Scott's "field grade" trumpets invariably end up on the wall or in a show case, quickly retired from the field.



Scott measures to within .002 to allow for sanding and to make tonal equivalent of his disciplined "standard."

Without the "at least once" request, his fancier calls may never be put to the test of calling in a bird.

I found this young callmaker not more than 45 miles away in Pendleton, Oregon, (and that's really nearby in Eastern Oregon) pretty much by accident. He's a friend of Chris Ward who found me through the CCO forum. Scott and Chris work together so I perked up when Scott posted his website: www.goldenwoodgamecalls.com

Scott started making duck calls several years ago, "But that was one failure after another," he admitted. By the time he learned to make a credible duck call, Scott was hunting turkeys in the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon and yearned for his own turkey call. Starting with pot calls, he gravitated toward trumpets as a more exacting craft. Now, three years later, Scott still considers himself an experimenter, looking for new combinations of materials and new ways to produce the right sound and a handsome look.

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President's Corner

I hope it is not as hot everywhere in the country as it is here in sunny Florida. As we approach the 17th annual Reelfoot Lake Waterfowl Festival, I find myself longing to feel a cool breeze at my back and the sounds of mallards cupping their wings around me.



James Bennett,
CCAA President

This Reelfoot Lake Waterfowl Festival will be one you should not miss. I have talked with many callmakers who plan to attend. I am counting the days down. The Festival has been scheduled to coincide with an arts and crafts show which should bring larger crowds to Reelfoot Lake than in years past.

Our own Show Coordinator, Jim Dester, has worked hard to structure the very first CCAA Working Call Contest on Saturday, September 30, and I know many callmakers intend to enter. It will be a great show even for those who do not enter, just to hear and see some of the best working calls being made all over the country. Don't forget to listen in on the Grand American Duck Calling Contest and the National Metal Reed Duck Calling Contest on Sunday, Oct. 1. The Reelfoot Lake Callmakers and Collectors have boosted the prize money for these contests to attract some of the best competitors in the country.

I hope to see many of you there.

I would like to extend a welcome to an all new callmakers organization. The Callmakers and Collectors Guild has just gotten underway and has big plans for the future. I hope we all will wish them well and give our support to our fellow callmakers and collectors.

Jim Fleming is going forward with his second Custom Calls book. He hopes to have all profiles in by October 1st and the book in print by year's end. If you are a Duck or Goose callmaker and would like to be included, please contact Jim or me. You don't want to be left out.

I want to join with William Bailey, our membership chairman, in congratulating everyone who made 2005 a successful year in our membership growth. Let's all work hard to recruit another 42 new members this year.

My compliments to newsletter editor, Ed Glenn, and to our contributors on filling this expanded issue of the newsletter with news, articles and information that we would not otherwise have.

Yours in service,

James Bennett
James Bennett, President

In this Issue

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- Jim Fleming is back at work on Custom Calls Vol. II as you'll read on page 12.
- William Bailey reports 2005 membership drive p. 12.
- Who Made 'Em, the Goovey Calls by Jim Thompson begins on page 13.
- CCAA membership form can be clipped from page 14.
- See the Editor's Commentary on page 15.
- Check the Trading Post on pages 14, 15 & 16

Here are some calls you'll likely see entered in the Working Call Contest Sept 30!



The National CALLMAKERS & COLLECTORS Newsletter

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Ed Glenn, Editor/Publisher

P.O. Box 428

Boardman, OR 97818

Phone: (541) 481-3151

E-mail: flyfisherman@windwave.org

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There is nothing wrong with the slate topped pot calls he makes. Scott loves to tell about the customer who struck one of his pots and a long beard actually flew several hundred yards, over a fence and a creek to be near that "hen."

Scott still makes an occasional duck call, a few pot calls, but concentrates on the trumpets and his customers have led him more to the fancier collector calls. I saw just such a call in the process.



Three blocks, Gaboon ebony, black and white ebony and another Gaboon are glued with a threaded rod and wingnuts for a clamp. This trumpet will have a rifle shell ferrule and an ivory mouth piece.

There was an ingenious clamping device – a threaded rod with wing nuts on each end – used to join three contrasting blocks for the trumpet. Scott doesn't rely on a simple butt joint, he turns a tenon for a more secure joint.

There was a set of lathe tools with spindle gouges ground to work more like scrapers and a tiny round of ivory for the mouth piece. There was the most steady hand to sign each call inside the bell as a finishing touch.

Scott sells most of the 25 or so trumpets he makes in a year's time to local buyers. But in years past he's sold several on e-bay. "Not so much e-bay anymore," Scott says. "Several of my e-bay customers have called and ordered something special." Indeed, nearly all of Scott's calls are made to order now. Scott recognizes he's not as well



Turning begins with a pen mandrel and Scott has ground this spindle gouge to work like a scraping tool.



Turned to an precise outside diameter, this trumpet will now have the bell opened up. Then it will be fitted with an ivory mouth piece and when finished will be signed inside the horn.



Scott's completed trumpet awaiting several coats of finish and the customer's preference for a lip stop. Scott doesn't use a lip stop but many customers specify one and Scott can add one of several designs from several different materials.

known as many other trumpet makers, so his prices reflect his lack of recognition. But inspired by the likes of Ralph Permar, Dave Constantine and Irving Whitt, Scott Bartholomew is destined to be one of the hard sought after trumpet makers in years to come.

In Memorium

Kenny Miser



Duck and goose callmaker Kenny Miser of Sebree, KY. passed away on July 18, 2006 at the age of 56. Kenny started making calls in the late 80s and sold calls in the Herter's catalog and on the show circuit. He will be missed by family and friends.

New Guild formed, CCAA newsletter will serve members

The recent formation of the Custom Call Makers and Collectors Guild has brought a new dimension to the art and craft of callmaking. The purpose of the Guild is well stated in its mission statement:

“Custom Call Makers and Collectors Guild is committed to promoting the art of game call craftsmanship as well as preserving the history of game call use and manufacture.

“The purpose: To bring together call makers and collectors so that they may share knowledge and form friendships.

“The business: Advocacy, social interaction and education with a strong emphasis on preserving the history of game call making

“The values: Honesty and integrity.”

As a new organization, the Guild has been busy planning and organizing. High on the to-do list is a membership drive. See www.customcalls.com/Guild/CCG.pdf for a membership application form and a dues structure that includes a life member membership.

Another major goal of the Guild is to develop a quarterly newsletter and the CCAA is proud to help in that regard. Until the Guild can support its own newsletter, the CCAA will mail copies of our newsletter to members of the Guild and will accept content supplied by the Guild. This issue includes an article about the Pig Pickin’ by Jennifer Boynton and the opening of the NWTF museum with

photos by Jennifer and Casey Corbett. As part of the expanded coverage of the CCAA, we include a wider range of callmaking information such as our cover story about trumpet maker Scott Bartholomew.

The Guild is planning a show to be held in the Fall of 2007 which will offer seminars by leading call makers, a call making competition, and other demonstrations and exhibits. The Guild had accepted a generous donation of a double booth space at the 2007 NWTF National Convention where information about the Guild, call making, and call collecting will be available as well as a display of many historic and significant calls from private collections.

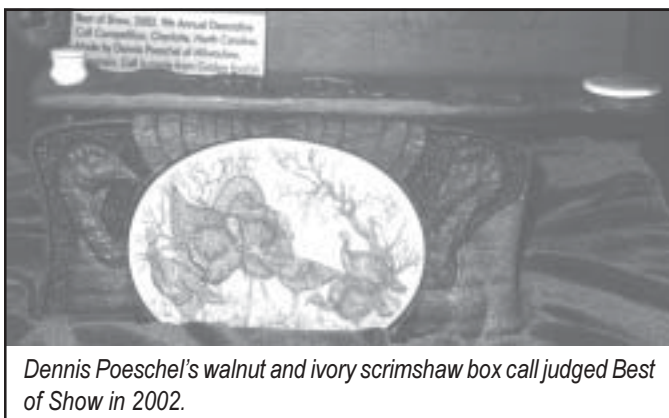
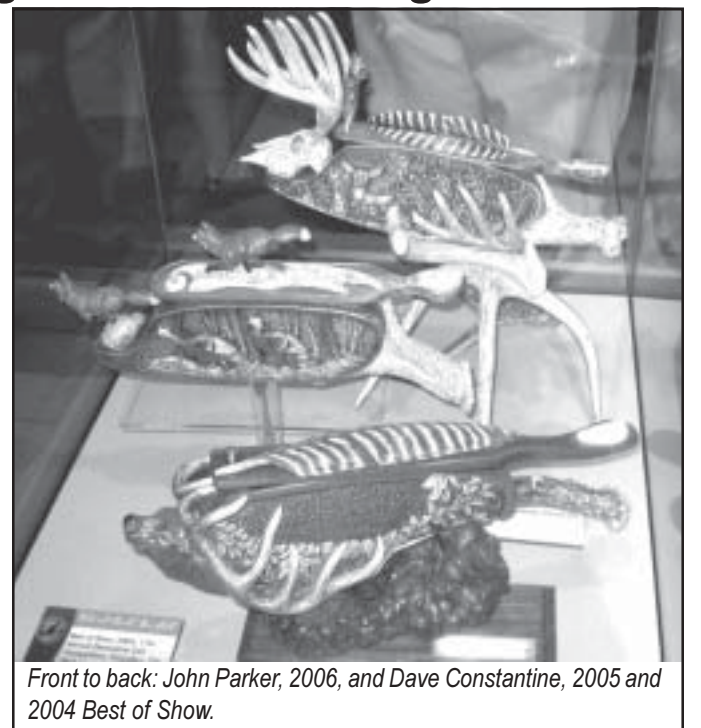
There may be a section to the CCO forum that will be available only to members of the Guild.

According to Rick Powell, Guild President, “The Guild is supportive of call makers and collectors of all types, be it duck, goose, deer, elk, turkey, predator, ostrich or platypus. This includes seasoned veteran makers and collectors as well as the person who is interested in making or collecting their first call. Our intention is not to be prescriptive in nature, we do not intend to tell anyone how to make calls or within what guidelines to make them rather we intend to help those who are looking for a place to learn, or a way to hone their skills by providing them a resource.”

The CCAA welcomes this opportunity to step forward and help the Guild and its members with the same spirit as the CCAA has served its own members for nearly 20 years.

NWTF Museum Opens in Edgefield SC on August 12

The National Wild Turkey Federation Museum opened recently with a collection of turkey calls made by historic and contemporary callmakers. There are also exhibits of animated storytellers and magnificent dioramas of various turkey/wildlife scenes. The Museum is open to the public Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on national holidays and weekends.



Dennis Poeschel's walnut and ivory scrimshaw box call judged Best of Show in 2002.

Front to back: John Parker, 2006, and Dave Constantine, 2005 and 2004 Best of Show.

The Second Annual CCO Pig Pickin'

by Jennifer Boynton

The Second Annual CCO Pig Pickin' was held in Camden, South Carolina, on June 17, 2006-and, as we say here in the South, "A good time was had by all...."

Joe Cantey III of Hermitage Farms Shooting Sports (HFSS) very generously allowed us to hold our event at his shooting range/club house. It is a lovely facility and provided an excellent venue for a day of good food, good music, good fellowship and custom calls!

Many arrived on Friday afternoon at the nearby Fairfield Inn. All types of vehicles found a spot in the parking lot-from 4x4 trucks to Mercedes sedans to fire engine red Harleys. I'm sure the hotel staff wondered what in the world had arrived in Camden-especially after turkey calls started resounding from every square inch of the hotel!



Keith Stromberg and Kenneth Greene of Flatwood Game Calls provided their South Carolina pig cooking skills to 140 pounds of prime pork, starting at one o'clock in the morning.

Keith Stromberg and Kenneth Greene from Flatwoods Game Calls in Bennettsville very generously offered their South Carolina Pig Cookin' skills and started cooking the pig (all 140 pounds of him) at 1:00 AM. As everyone knows, the art of pig pickin' and pig cookin' is a genetic trait in the South, and Keith and Kenneth have honed that to a level of uncontested artistry! It sure wasn't long before some mighty fine aromas started wafting over Camden, drawing people over like honey drawing flies.

The more than 60 who attended started arriving at HFSS. Drawing on Stumpy's expertise, the keg (Bud Lite by popular acclaim) was put on ice and Danny Ellis, of Charlotte, NC, was unfortunately chosen to be the one to tap it. After an inadvertent "beer bath", Danny announced that it would probably be best to let it "sit" a while longer.....

And what a wonderful "while longer" it was! A beautiful lazy summer day in South Carolina is hard to resist. The honeysuckle and jasmine were blooming, filling the air with their perfume and competing with the wonderful

(and mouth watering) aromas of slow cooked pig; an atmosphere to encourage good fellowship and camaraderie.

As people started to arrive, more and more calls were



Young Hunter Efird listens in as Danny Ellis regales Butch Chapman and Heath Efird In the sometimes crowded cabana at Heritage Farms Shooting Sports, in Camden, South Carolina.

brought out and everyone started to "talk shop" -to discuss callmaking, hunting, collecting; any topic that caught anyone's attention. Joe even has two ponds where some practiced casting and fishing...

Since this was a "get together" rather than a "show",



Jerry "Dad" White appears to be supervising this table of callmakers sharing their skills, knowledge and admiration of each others' work.

there were no booths set up, but several callmakers had calls in their cars/trucks and there was a good bit of activity in the parking areas! Pretty soon the whole area resounded with laughter, happy voices and turkey calls. Impromptu seminars were given-and I particularly want to thank Frank Hegler and Mike Battey, both from Charlotte NC. These two callmakers very kindly and very generously

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continued from page 5

shared their time, their calling skills (which are amazingly impressive) and their callmaking skills (which are even more impressive). Mike Battey, in particular, was very kind and generous not just with his time and skills, but with his callers-several people were recipients of his kindness (myself included) and were presented with Wildtalker trumpets-and now I sound like a turkey, not a goose!!!!



Mike Battey shows Lisa Piszker how to hold a trumpet for maximum effect. Butch Chapman, at right, evesdrops on the instruction.



Ron Regan, left, and Chris Smarte listen intently to the music of Frank Helgar. Frank was generous in sharing his calling skill.

But of all the really cool things that were there, the coolest was Tim Beach and his amazing flip flops. These Nobel-worthy items have a bottle opener in the sole! Where the heck were these in my younger years.....

There were a couple of presentations made-one was the presentation of the Ruby Red Hunting Slippers -in a shadow box by Casey and Craig (aka Cornbread) Corbett, of Reidsville, GA, - to Jerry "Dad" White, Hazelhurst GA. This is an annual award to be given to each winner of the

Turpin Award.

In addition to this worthy award, Danny Ellis was awarded a "Homewood GA" box call. Suspiciously "found" by the "Goodfernuthins" in Hazelhurst GA, this laboriously and imaginatively woodburned and decorated call now resides in pride of place in Danny's collection.

Right after the awards, Keith and Kenneth announced the pig was ready and everybody heaped their plates and dived in. And it was surely a fine, fine feast.

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The Cosmic Possums played bluegrass to the delight of most music lovers, and what callmaker is not a music lover?



Parker Weldon, second from left, offers an opinion for Rick Powell and Charlie Parrish, at right, to consider.



Mike Battey coaches Hunter Efiend with his calling technique while Hunter's father, Heath ponders the advice.

Tips and Techniques

Adapting built-up call methods

While working on a duck call, "Red Chevron," it occurred to me that some of the same techniques could be used to build up other kinds of calls.

To make the joined chevron (sometimes called "zig-zag") feature rings, I glued .25" thick strips of Tulip wood and Paduk between .75" strips of maple. Each strip is separated from the next with Purpleheart veneer. After gluing up these seven strips, they are chopped as a single unit at 45 degrees, in lengths of .46". Every other piece is then flipped over and glued to its neighbor to form a 90 degree chevron. Trimmed square top and bottom, each chevron is mitered at 15 degrees each side to form six 30 degree segments.

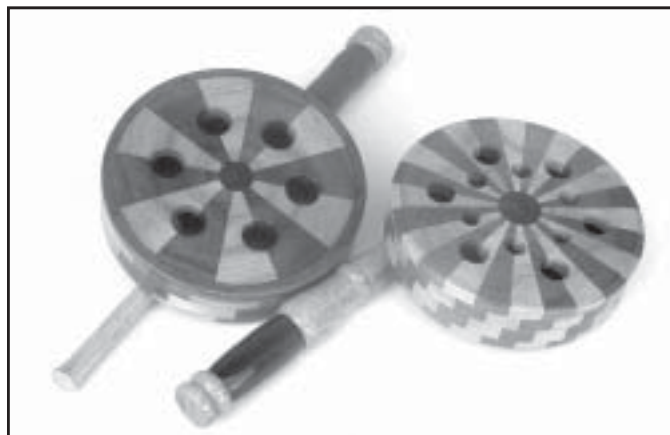
The base rings are 24 segments of four different woods arranged in the same sequence in each .5" thick ring.

Applying these same techniques to turkey calls was relatively easy. The 12 segment pot call is from black walnut and maple with .25" material making up the four rings of the outside and the bottom. The sound board is mounted on the center post seen on the bottom.

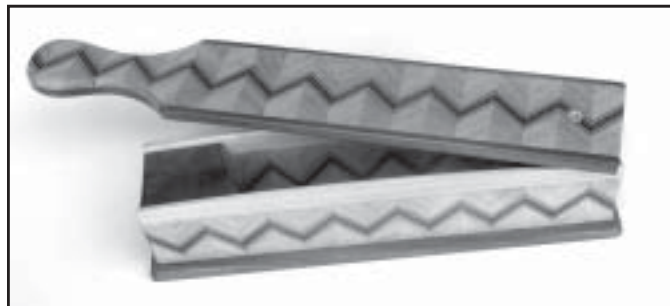
The 24 segment pot just cried for 12 sound holes of two different sizes and it mounts the sound board in the same way as the other pot.



The box call was built-up much the same way as the feature ring on the duck call, but rather than miter the chevrons to segments, I re-sawed the strip for both sides and the lid. The lid is laminated to solid walnut and the sides are edge glued to maple for the sounding surface.



Two segmented pot calls built up much the same as segmented duck calls. Both have sound boards mounted on center posts.



A joined chevron (zig-zag) box call with the same built-up pattern on the lid and both sides. The lid is laminated to solid black walnut.

Pig Pickin' *continued from page 6*

To top a wonderful day off, Danny Ellis generously provided a bluegrass band-the Cosmic Possums-and not only did we have excellent food and drink, but we had the opportunity to hear some spectacularly good musicians. As an aside, two of the band members were so taken with callmaking and all its corollaries that they have since asked to be notified of any call gatherings so they can attend. I found the correlation between musicians and callmakers/collectors to be very interesting. Both groups are interested in wood and its tonal qualities as well as beauty and share many facets of interest.

Finally, dark came, the lights were turned on, and laughter, camaraderie and turkey music continued.....

When we finally called it a day, many hands jumped in to help clean up. I truly wish everyone could have been there. It was a magical day of friendship, joy and happiness. I hope that next year will be just as wonderful, but perhaps more so because hopefully some duck/goose and predator callmakers/collectors will be there.

Prizes for Reelfoot Calling Contests

The Reelfoot Lake Callmakers & Collectors Association are excited to announce the following: \$2,000 prize money for 1st place in the Sanctioned Grand American Duck-Calling Contest and \$1,000 prize money for 1st place in the National Metal Reed Duck-Calling Contest.

The Reelfoot Lake Callmakers & Collectors Association is a non-profit, all volunteer organization that promotes Reelfoot Lake style callmaking & heritage. Come meet the many callmakers that produce custom hand-crafted style calls & see the historical Reelfoot Lake.

Other unique exhibits this year will include: Wildlife Art, Callmaking & Collecting Books, Antique Decoys, & Modern Hunting & Fishing supplies.

The 17th annual Waterfowl Festival will be held on September 30 & October 1 at Kirby Pocket in Samburg, TN. (Reelfoot Lake) from 8:00am to 5:00pm. All calling contests will be held on Sunday, October 1. For further information call (731)536-0266, (931)647-0902 or 1-800-456-2763.

Rebel Duck Calls by Billy Ray Starks, in the Field, on the Stage

by Jim Chamberlin

There are several types of duck call makers. Some are wood workers first and hunters second, if at all. Others, like Billy Ray Starks, eat, sleep and breathe ducks. Billy Ray is a hunter first and callmaker second. Of course, he comes by it naturally.

Billy Ray Starks, born February 6, 1940, is one of six brothers and three sisters raised on the banks of the White River at Crockett's Bluff in Arkansas County, Arkansas. His family has been hunting and guiding the river bottoms and oxbow lakes in the area since his grandfather, Pete Brown, started in the early 1900s. Pete Brown was of the

generation that hunted over live decoys and later when they were outlawed, had to master a duck call. Billy Ray's father, Homer Starks, was a well known and respected guide for over 68 years and continued hunting and guiding the same area right up until his death at age 81. All of Billy Ray's brothers, J. B. Starks, Leon Starks, Ralph Starks, Charles Starks and Steve Starks followed that same tradition. The oldest brother, J. B. Starks, relates that at the time he started the going rate was \$5.00 per hunter, per day and that later, when it went to \$7.50 a day they were in "high cotton". My father and I had the pleasure of hunting with Homer Starks and his sons Leon and Steve for many years and it was through them that I heard about Billy Ray and his call making. When I got interested in call making I just showed up on Billy Ray's door step and have called him a friend ever since.

The Starks family lived right on the river in a home that was built on floats. When the river came out of its banks it became a house boat. Before the Starks used it as a residence the structure had been a floating grocery store for travelers on the river. During the off season the family continued to make their living from the river as commercial fishermen.

At age fourteen Billy Ray borrowed his grandfather's .22 rifle and walked to an oxbow lake hunted by his father 2 miles from the home. As he was leaving, the gun snagged a limb and Billy Ray was shot through the chest. Only through quick thinking, perseverance and God's help was he able to bandage his wound with his shirt and make his way back through the woods to his home and medical treatment.

Billy Ray went on to finish high school and was awarded an art scholarship. Uncle Sam had other plans though, and Billy Ray entered the Army in 1961 and served



Billy Ray Starks crafts both acrylic and wood duck calls in his Stuttgart, AR shop today just as he has for years.



An Arkansas oxbow lake like the one where Billy Ray was shot when he was 14. This photo was taken during the days Billy Ray's father and grandfather guided along the White River.

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until 1967. After the service Billy Ray went back to his first love, duck hunting and again began to guide along the White River.



Photo by Jeff Allen

The first jig Billy Ray Starks used was made from an automobile axle. This jig is now part of the collection of Jeff Allen.

At that time the preferred call was the venerable P.S. Olt D-2. In the early days the D-2 calls were made of hard rubber rather than plastic. Billy Ray began to tinker with modifications of the Olt D-2 to try and get the sound he wanted. Although he became adept at making his own cut-down Olt's, he was still not satisfied. He and a friend, Charles Marchand, began experimenting with making their own calls. This was in 1969 or 1970.

Once these two callmakers developed a design they liked, they wanted a jig to consistently reproduce the taper, length and cork slot of the toneboard of their duck call. Their first toneboard jig is a crude affair that was made at a local machine shop from an automobile axle. That first jig is now in the collection of Jeff Allen.

Within about a year Billy Ray and Charles went their separate ways as callmakers. To this day Billy Ray claims that first jig "put out some of the best callers I ever made". Unfortunately that first jig was not hardened and repeated filing of inserts on the jig altered the radius so that it would no

longer produce calls which measured up to Billy Ray's exacting expectations.

One of Billy Ray's duck hunting clients was associated with an aircraft manufacturer and had their machine shop produce a heat hardened jig from a pattern supplied by Billy Ray. At about the same time Billy Ray was changing from a .012 hard rubber reed to a .010 Mylar reed. To keep the same raspy tone he likes, this new jig is designed to produce an insert that is 1/4" shorter than those from the original jig. This second jig has been used for at least the last 10 years.



Billy Ray's son, Kenneth, with the shotgun he won as World's Youth Duck Calling Champion. Kenneth used Billy Ray's Rebel Calls to win the championship two years in a row.

INSTRUCTION SHEET

These calls use a 30 to 13 thousandths inch thick reed of tongue. Anything over this will be too thick and the call will not blow correctly.

The cork may have to be soaked in water over a period of time so it has a tendency to dry out after use.

Hold reed in place over the barrel. Blow it with a reed until it is tight. Then put your finger over the cork piece and blow into the barrel. If it does not leak, it's okay and ready for blowing.

When not in use, always lower the barrel and on the floor up to half way when it will dry out. After drying, wash with the cork and reed.

This call is set (tuned) (checked) for the cork and volume required for the use of the call.

BLAMING

To get easy remove cork and slide plastic reed toward the back. The barrel, pull out a little at a time.

GOOD HUNTING!
BILLY and BERNICE STARKS
Type of Wood is _____
Test Made _____

Billy Ray included this instruction sheet with most of his calls over the more than 3 decades he's been making duck calls.

Outside of family and duck hunting, Billy Ray has two loves, his 1967 Chevelle which he has owned since it was new, and Ole Miss football. Watching a game one day he decided that he couldn't think of a better name than "Rebel" for his callers.

Although the only judges that truly matter to Billy Ray have feathers and green heads, his callers have won many regional, state and even the World Championship held every year in his home town of Stuttgart, Arkansas each year. A highlight occurred in 1983 when his nephew, David Starks, and Billy Ray came in 1st and 2nd in the "ArkLaTex" Regional contest using Rebel callers. His son Kenneth had an outstanding streak winning the World Youth Contest twice at age 10 and 11 with one of his father's calls.

During Billy Ray's contest years

he competed against some other well known Arkansas call makers including Howard Amaden, maker of “Hambone” calls, and Mark Weedman maker of “Weedy’s Pin Oak” calls. In a state known for producing World Champion callers, Billy Ray has finished second in two Arkansas State Championships using his own calls. David Starks is a “Champion of Champions” having won three World Contests.

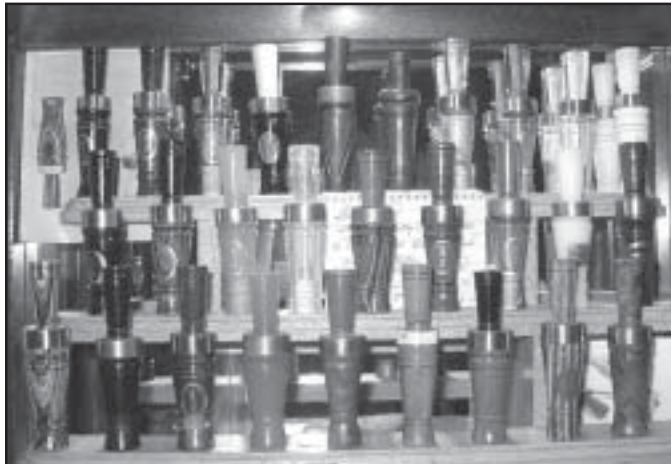


Photo by Jeff Allen

Jeff Allen's collection of Rebel Calls may be the single largest collection of Billy Ray Starks' work anywhere.

As proud as Billy Ray is of the success of his calls in the field and on the stage, one of his proudest moments came when his brother Charles finally gave up his Olt D-2 for a Rebel caller.

Although Billy Ray makes acrylic calls, he prefers wood. He says that when it gets cold acrylic tends to freeze up or squeal and he just “likes the mellow sound of wood”. His favorite woods are cocobolo or bois d’arc. His favorite bois d’arc calls (also known as bodock, bodark, Osage orange and hedge, among other names) are made from old fence posts that may be 100 years old. His personal call is a bodock call he made 36 years ago. This is the call he hunts with and it is used to tune other calls against.

Billy Ray estimates he has made an average of 40 – 60 calls a year over the last 36 years and says he has never made more than 100 in any year. Today he makes an average of 40 calls a year. One of Billy Ray’s biggest fans is Jeff Allen a dog trainer and breeder from Mocksville, N.C., (www.dutchmanscreekretrievers.com). Jeff’s collection of Rebel duck calls is second to none.

Billy Ray’s calls are featured in Howard Harlan and W. Crew Anderson’s book, “Duck Calls, An Enduring American Folk

Art”, “Arkansas Duck Hunter’s Almanac” by Steve Bowman and Steve Wright, as well as in “Custom Calls – Duck and Goose Calls from Today’s Craftsmen” by James Fleming.

Billy Ray recently retired from the position of Park Director for the city of Stuttgart after 23 years. Although still an active hunter he has retired from guiding after 41 years. In addition to callmaking, Billy Ray enjoys working on his 1967 Chevelle which he shows regularly and which he successfully drag raced throughout the south. Billy Ray may have one of the largest collections of 8-Track tapes to go along with it.

One of Billy Ray’s biggest regrets is the decline in duck populations he has observed over recent years. He places the blame solely on “long seasons, too big of limits per person and the ‘robo’ duck”. He doesn’t believe the sport will recover until hunters themselves say “Enough is enough, lower the limit and the days of a season”.

Billy Ray says he never wanted to market his calls, and at first most were given away to family and friends. Later word of mouth spread through his hunting clients and those of his brothers and he began to sell more and more calls. Each call is still made entirely by hand in the shop behind his house. Now they have been sold in most of the states, Canada, England and France. If you want one, contact him at 870-673-6352; or write to Billy Ray Starks, 708 B, South Anna, Stuttgart, AR 72160.

Coming Events

- **September 17 & 18:** Northern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days, Silver Springs State Park, Yorkville, IL. Dog trials, hunting and fishing seminars, Venders. www.huntingandfishingdays.com
- **September 30, October 1:** Reelfoot Lake Waterfowl Festival, Kirby Pocket, Tennessee. CCAA Working Call Competition. Grand American Duck Calling Championships. (800) 456-2763.
- **November 24-26:** Wings Over the Praire Festival and World Championship Duck Calling Contest, Stuttgart, AR. Calling Contest is culmination of State and Regional contests all over the Nation (and Canada). (870) 673-1602 www.stuttgartarkansas.org

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CCAA Working Call Contest Rules and Entry Form, Reelfoot Lake Waterfowl Festival

Divisions:

- A - Metal reed calls.
- B - All natural wood plastic reed calls. The barrel, stopper & tone board, must all be constructed out of natural wood. (stabilized wood is not a natural wood)
- C - Acrylic or Acrylic injected stabilized wood calls.

Rules:

1. All calls must be hand turned & hand made by the callmaker entering the call. This rule covers the complete call - barrel, stopper & tone board.
2. Injection molding & CNC made calls or stoppers will not be allowed.
3. Duck calls only.
4. Limit of 2 calls per division by same callmaker.
5. This is a working call contest. Please keep embellishments to a minimum. Save the fancy stuff for the Fancy Call Contest in St Charles. Calls will be judged on their ability to "bring in the ducks" and the quality of construction.
6. The contest is open to any callmaker. It is not necessary to be a member of CCAA to enter a call.

Prizes:

1st & 2nd place in each division will be awarded a ribbon. Best of Show will be awarded a plaque. In addition to the ribbons & plaque, the winning calls and callmaker will be featured on the CCAA web site and in the CCAA newsletter.

Judging of the calls:

1. There will be 5 judges. Each call will be blown by a single experienced duck caller, who is not one of the judges. Each judge will listen to the feed call, individual quacks, the hail call & come-back call. The caller will also illustrate the overall tone & sound reproduction that the call is capable of producing. The judges will rate each of these criteria on a scale from 1 to 12.
2. After all of the calls have been blown by the caller, the 5 judges will then judge each call on the following: comfort and feel of the call (is the call "operator friendly"), craftsmanship (quality of construction) & overall appearance of the call. Each of these criteria will be judged on a scale from 1 to 12.
3. Summary of judging criteria, which places 75% of the score on sound or sound related criteria and 25% on non sound criteria. The sound and sound related criteria would be: Feed call, Individual Quack, Hail call, Comeback call, Overall tone & sound reproduction, Comfort and feel of the call (is the call "operator friendly"). The non sound criteria would be: Craftsmanship (quality of construction) and Overall appearance of the call.
4. All of the score cards will be totaled up (a total of 96 points from each judge is possible). The high and the low score cards will be thrown out and the total of the remaining 3 score cards will determine the winners. In case of a tie, the judges will be asked to re-judge the tied calls to determine the winner.

Entering Call in Contest Information

1. Entry fee per call is \$10.
2. Each callmaker must fill out and sign a call entry form.
3. Calls can be entered by mail by sending the calls, entry form, return postage, insurance and entry fee to: (please call or e-mail before you send calls)
James Bennett, 511 Canning Plant Road, Seffner, FL 33584. - phone: 813 310-8875. E-Mail: jamesbjr@aol.com. James **must receive the calls by Sept. 26, 2006.**
Jim Dester, 142 Rowantree Rd., Sycamore, IL 60178. - phone 815 899-3060. Click here to E-mail: quackcalls@tbcnet.com. Jim **must receive the calls by Sept. 25, 2006.**
4. Checks should be made out to Callmakers & Collectors Association.
5. If you are bringing your calls to the contest, the location for entering the calls will be at the Callmakers & Collectors Association Call Contest table, Reelfoot Lake Waterfowl Festival, Kirby Pocket State Park, Reelfoot Lake, TN. You may enter the calls from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 30, 2006.
6. Callmaker retains ownership of the call and can reclaim the call from the contest after 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct 1, 2006.

CCAA Working Duck Call Contest Entry Form

Callmakers Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Note! You may enter no more than 2 calls per division.

Division A - Metal Reed Call

of Calls entered: _____ x \$10 = entry fee: \$ _____

Division B - All Natural Wood Plastic Reed Call

of Calls entered: _____ x \$10 = entry fee: \$ _____

Division C - Acrylic or Acrylic Injected Stabilized Wood Call

of Calls entered: _____ x \$10 = entry fee: \$ _____

Total Entry Fee: \$ _____

Postage and Insurance for Return: \$ _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

Make Checks payable to **Callmakers and Collectors Association**. Calls may be entered by mail - see Rules above or by delivery to CCAA Contest Table, Reelfoot Lake Waterfowl Festival, Kirby Pocket State Park, Reelfoot Lake, TN, between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 30, 2006.

All calls remain the property of the callmaker and may be removed from the contest after 3:00 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 1. By signing this form, you affirm that the barrel, stopper & toneboard of the calls entered in this contest were hand turned and hand made by you.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Jim Fleming back at work on *Custom Calls, Volume II*

Jim (James C. Jr.) Fleming, collector, author and newsletter publisher since 1991, is back hard at work on his second book about contemporary callmakers. Jim's first book *Custom Calls: Duck and Goose Calls from Today's Craftsmen* was published in 1995 and listed callmakers from all over the nation.

Now, Fleming is updating that list with an aim for 100 new callmakers in a book with a working title of *Custom Calls, Volume II*. With about 80 callmaker profiles now in hand, Jim is working feverously to complete the manuscript and get on with publication. Many callmakers have not returned approved drafts of their profiles, so Jim will proceed with his own writing style and such photos as he has. Each callmaker is requested to send Jim a duck or goose call to be included in the color plate pages of callmaker's work. Recently Jim announced a deadline of September 1, but at this Editor's urging, that deadline has been extended to October 1. Jim will be at the Reelfoot Waterfowl Festival and will receive proofread profiles and contributed calls at the show.

Bits and Pieces

A new CCAA member, Brian Phillips of Guntersville, AL has a new member of the family. Monroe Ly was born August 4 and joins her older brother Chandler. Baby and mother (Carmen) are doing fine.

Quality Duck Call Making Materials

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Fleming says he hopes the new book, like the first, will serve as a source of information for callmakers and collectors alike. However, he will limit this new book to only 1,500 copies, hardback covered, each signed and numbered. Every listed callmaker will receive a copy and the remainder will sell for about \$50.00.

"In ten years or so, this second volume may well be a collector's item itself," Jim said and he hopes that someone who buys a copy at the published price will see a significant increase in the value of his book.

Jim's own collection of duck calls tends to be older Reelfoot style calls. But he has an exciting plan for the calls he collects from callmakers included in Vol. II. Jim's improved health and renewed enthusiasm for this project indicate *Custom Calls, Vol. II* will be available soon.

Great Membership Drive For 2005

by William Bailey, Membership Chairman

First of all, I want to thank the members who sponsored new members during our Membership Drive this year. I have listed their names. Also, Barry McFarland deserves a big "Thanks" from all of us for the beautiful checkered call he donated to CCAA for the Membership Drive. The drawing was held during the Business Meeting at St. Charles and Greg Hodges of Huntsville, AL was the proud winner of Barry's great call.

We will be giving away another call in our 2007 Business Meeting at St. Charles. Jim Dester of Sycamore, IL was the "Best of Show" winner of the Fancy Call Contest and his call will be featured on the C.C.A.A. patch. Jim's calls are top of the line and I personally think he is one of the best contemporary makers, making calls today. One of Dester's calls would be a great addition to any collection, so don't forget to put your name on the membership application as the sponsor for your chance to win one of Dester's great calls.

We had 21 members who sponsored 42 New Members during 2005.

Sponsors For 2005 Membership Drive by the time of the St. Charles show were:

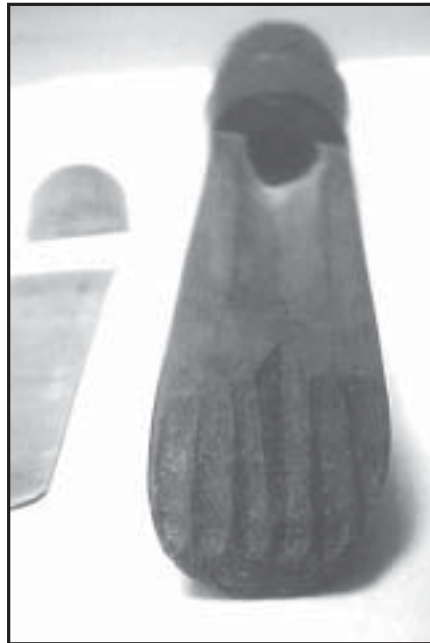
Bob Fort	Elmo Casto	Hugh Chatham
Herb Ohley	Kent L. Bowers	Steve Ribeau
Greg Hodges	James Bennett	Barry McFarland
Jim Fleming	Jeff Milligan	Albert Thibodeaux
Steve Boyles	Bob Christensen	Donald Clark
Bill Hooper	Bill Orgain	John Braun
William Bailey	Howard Harlan	Turner Hutchison

Who Made 'em? Chapter II - the Groovey Call

by Jim Thompson

In the Winter 2002 CCAA newsletter, I wrote an article about the “wedge block lock” call. In 2004 I wrote a follow-up article identifying the maker as John S. Yasger of Horicon, Wisconsin. A member of our club gave me the vital information enabling me to finally identify the maker. So hoping I will meet with the same success, I am now writing about the “groovey” call.

This story begins much like the previous one. I had just bought a small collection of calls from an old-time decoy collector at the 2004 St. Charles Decoy Show. There were several great calls in this collection - several Perdews, early Dittos (including the hard rubber tongue pincher and the combination duck and goose call with extension tube), a Doll Emerick carved call, and several other lesser calls and an unidentified call. These calls had been obtained during the late '50's and early '60's while gathering Illinois River decoys. After several years of trying to buy the calls, I had finally been successful. I was proud of the calls, so I put them on display in my room marked NFS.



The tip of the toneboard has grooves, discovered only after two weeks in the refrigerator.

eight sided and sported some grooves on the shoulder of the call.

Jon said the end of the tone board was grooved as well. I could not disassemble my call, but close examination under light seemed to indicate my call had the tone board grooves as well. Later, when I returned home and placed the call in the refrigerator for two weeks, I was able to remove the stopper and confirm the grooves on the sloped end of the tone board were there.

A couple of months later, Randie Flowers, a west Tennessee collector, bought a nearly identical call on ebay. The seller said it was obtained at a country auction in Mascoutah, Illinois.

Finally, Ross Distefano of the Kansas City area showed me a call that seemed to be by the same maker. This call, although not eight sided, exhibits



The author's groovey duck call beside another very similar call owned by Jon Farquhar. Note the gooved shoulder.

Soon thereafter, Jon Farquhar walked into my room, viewed the calls and exclaimed that he had a call IDENTICAL to the unidentified call in the collection. He said he bought the call from a picker who had obtained it at a flea market south of St. Louis and the dealer said the call came from Illinois. This call was obviously hand made. It was



The groovey calls have grooves hand cut into the shoulder.

all the other identifying characteristics of the other “groovey” calls. But this call was much fancier. It was hand checked, double banded, and had the outline of a duck

continued on page 14

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Who Made 'em, Groovey Calls

continued from page 13

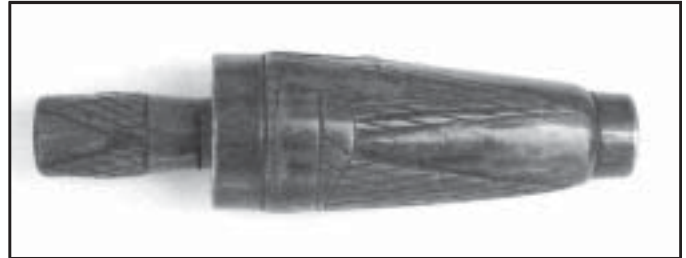
scribed on the barrel. The trough and the tone board grooves seemed to be a match, and the call had a history attached.

It originally belonged to a St. Louis businessman named Rudolf Siebert who owned the Yellow Cab Company there. Mr. Siobert also owned the Horsehoe Lake Goose Hunting Club near Olive Branch, Illinois. Rudolf died in 1936 and this call was obtained from his grandson, Jim, who still runs the club today.

So these four calls have emerged into the call collecting world. The maker is unknown to me, but I hope some other collector will know who made these early calls. They exhibit good workmanship and good materials, and they have a fine sound. There are several other identifying features common to all of the known calls, but I am not going to disclose them in order to discourage unscrupulous duplication. Surely someone, somewhere knows the history of these calls. If anyone contacts me and enlightens me, I

promise to write a follow up article on the "groovey" calls, just as I did for the "wedge block lock" calls. Then we will all know - WHO MADE'EM?

Jim Thompson can be reached at 3902 Kimpalong Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205-1950, 615-292-5831 or emailed at duckhawk@bellsouth.net.



A more fancy goovey call collected by Randle Flowers shows the same gooves in the toneboard as the other four calls.

Save on Membership Dues

Beginning in January, 2007, you can save yourself a few dollars and save the CCAA a little bookkeeping by renewing your membership for more than a year at a time:

- 1 year (U.S. addresses) \$25.00
- 1 year (outside U.S.) 28.00
- 3 years (all) 70.00
- 5 years (all) 115.00

Remember, all members' dues are now due in January, 2007. By renewing for 3 or 5 years you will help yourself and the CCAA.

Trading Post

Duck Calls For Sale:

Everitt Baldridge: Raised panel checkered call Beckhart style with four panels up and four panels down,, all checkered. Stamped "E. B." on collar. Walnut barrel and toneboard. Mint Condition. \$250.00

Ken Martin: Duck call, walnut barrel and toneboard. Pre-branded Lemont, knotless green lanyard with original box, instructions and extra reed. Good condition. \$150.00

Ken Martin: Goose call, walnut barrel and toneboard. Branded "Ken Martin, Lemont, Illinois," knotless green lanyard. Resonating chamber style. Good condition. \$125.00

Joe Jaroski: Laminate ring pattern barrel composed of bodoc, walnut, cherry and purpleheart. Gold label "Duck Calls by Joe Jaroski, Du Quoin, Ill." Bodoc toneboard Arkansas style. Good condition. \$100.00

Tom Condo: Mahogany barrel carved and painted black labs and springing mallard drake. Round spiral collar and mahogany toneboard, metal reed. Mint condition. \$110.00 Call (215) 679-9681.

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 \$25.00 membership fee. we appreciate your interest in call collecting. **Send application with membership fee of \$25.00 in US Dollars only to: William R. Bailey - 137 Kingswood Drive - Clarksville, TN 37043 Make checks payable to: Callmakers & Collectors Association.**

Commentary

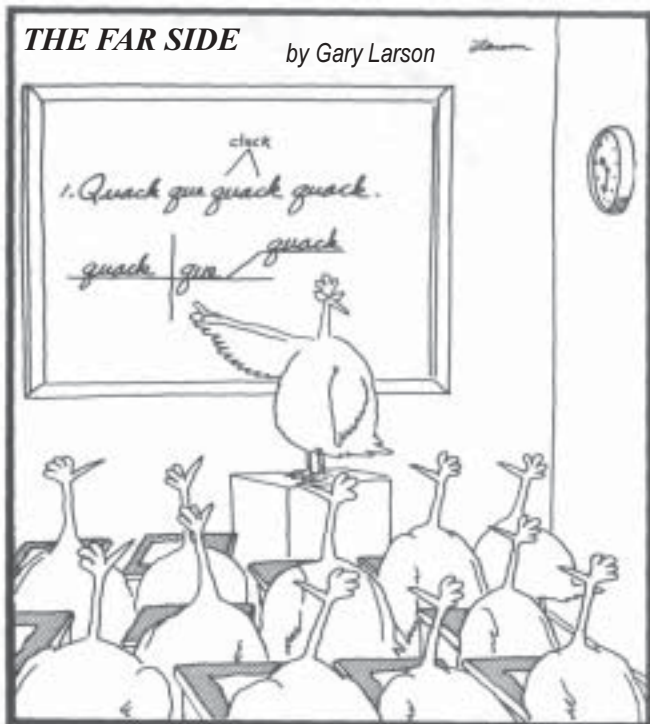
Our language holds us together

By Ed Glenn, Editor

A newsletter is sort of like a magazine, which is sort of like a newspaper. The one thing they all have in common is they print the news. Newspapers are full of news and sometimes include a feature story. Many magazines are full of feature stories without much news. We're going to try to make this newsletter a good combination, with news about upcoming events, what's happened to whom (see Bits and Pieces) and what happened at the last big show. Add to the news, a good selection of feature stories about callmakers and collectors and we'll have a good balance. You'll even find a comic now and then, just like the Sunday paper.

There's another part of most newspapers and many magazines that we'll try. Editors have the duty to print the news, find or write the feature stories and in this case sell the advertising. In exchange, Editors get to "spill a little ink" by printing an opinion piece – an Editorial – about some thing of interest among the readers. There's another obligation that goes along with that privilege. Readers sometimes have a different opinion and write to the Editor to express it.

So here's the deal. I intend to voice an opinion about some issue that I think is important and if you want to express your opinion, write me a letter and I'll print that too. Maybe this whole page will be filled with my Editorial and your Letters to the Editor.



Beginning duck

With that introduction let me tell you about something that's going on that you may not know about.

Jim Dester, our Show Coordinator and Web Master has put together a committee to help draft a glossary of terms used by Callmakers and Collectors. Jim started with a few terms Greg Keats and I included in our book, including a few that Greg and I worked pretty hard to draft. I'm happy that Jim and his committee liked the idea of a starting place, not that I think I know any more about callmaking than any one else. Every journey begins with a first step and Jim and Crew have taken a big one to start what might turn out to be a long trip down a bumpy road. It's a courageous undertaking.

My opinion:

A common language among us is essential to our advancement of the art. With nearly 500 members, the CCAA is the largest and strongest callmakers and collectors association. It is up to us to lead the way for the next generation of artisans who will be the callmakers in the future.

As the glossary builds, and parts of it are published, I expect there will be some disagreement about the meaning of some terms. It would be unusual for there not to be. Indeed, thoughtful and well articulated debate will be a good thing, making the definition of terms more precise.

There may also be some outright rejection of the definition of some terms by some. That too, is Ok, as long as we all understand just what our fellow callmakers mean when they use a term in a different way.

What I hope will not happen, however, is for our members to whine and cry foul and call each other nasty names. We can debate the issues with enthusiasm, forcefully with rational thoughtfulness and we should. But I hope we can disagree without being disagreeable.

My congratulations to Jim Dester and his committee for undertaking an important task.

Trading Post

Duck Calls For Sale:

Robert Reeves: Bodoc barrel with three checkered triangular panels down. Cocobolo toneboard, banded, stamped "RMR" on collar. Metal reed call Reelfoot style. Mint condition. \$140.00

Robert Reeves: Burl redwood barrel, banded with bodoc toneboard. Stamped "RMR" on collar. Metal reed Reelfoot style. Mint condition. \$85.00

Thirteen more Robert Reeves metal reed duck calls available. Highly figured woods. Need to see photographs to appreciate these calls.

Earl Dennison: Cedar Barrel with three checkered triangular panels down and cedar toneboard. Metal reed. Original box and instructions. Mint condition. \$75.00 Call (215) 679-9681.

Trading Post

Duck and Goose Calls for Sale: Over 120 calls including the following callmakers: Earl Dennison, Kelly and Jerry Weatherford, Robert Reeves, Joe Jaroski, Dahrl Wright, Paul Kingyon, E. L. Quinn, John Coates, Alan Hammond, Gene Parrish, Ben Rinke, Everitt Baldrige, Don Dennis, James Keith, J. T. Bucher, Tom Condo, Sam McKoone, Steve Johnson, Charlie Bishop, Ken Martin, Glynn Scobey, Chris Faulkner, Don Johns, Bob Hill, Tim Grounds, Ron Weinke and Sean Mann. Will sell as a collection, individual lots, or individual calls. Most are one-of-a-kind items from highly figured woods. Complete call list and photographs available upon request. Call (215) 679-9681.

Books for Sale: *Duck Calls – An Enduring American Folk Art*, Harlen and Anderson, with 1992 price guide, \$55.00; *Duck Stamps and Prints – The Complete Federal and State Edition*, 1st Edition, 2nd printing, \$60.00; *Duck Stamps and Prints – The Complete Federal and State Edition, Revised Edition*, \$70.00; *The Great Book of Waterfowl Decoys*, edited by Joe Fengers \$70.00. Call (215) 679-9681.

Duck Calls for Sale: Chris Faulkner: Canada goose flute calls all banded, the band engraved “Falkner.” Available: Claro walnut, Maccasser Ebony, Bertoque walnut, Blackwood, burl myrtlewood, and English walnut. All highly figured woods. Mint condition. Each \$75.00. All six \$400. Call (215) 679-9681.

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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 collectible calls, and to promote and encourage the perpetuation of the art form through contemporary callmakers.

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