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One Man's Life of... "The Hunt"



100th issue
SPECIAL FEATURE
Waterfowl Magazine

By Lou Tisch

A boy, a shotgun and the woods the start of a lifetime in the Outdoors for Bud Shell. Bud's love of the hunt was instilled in him by friends and relatives while his love for carving decoys grew out of this immersion in nature. He grew up hunting, fishing and trapping in Port Huron, Michigan. If you were to ask Bud what he's about, he'd tell you..."I'm a Husband, Father, Hunter and Carver. We can all identify with Bud's initial excursions into the marsh through the pages of *Field & Steam* and *Outdoor Life*



Magazines. Early hunting equipment was a simple single shot 16 gauge Stevens shotgun and a few decoys from Sears. He also spent many hours afield with simple traps, collecting muskrats for their hide and meat. These were simple beginnings that set the stage for Bud's life of "The Hunt".

The majority of Bud's carving and hunting had to fit around his work as an automotive technician. Retired now and living along the St. Clair River in East China Township, Michigan, provides Bud with the opportunity to study wildfowl, close up and personal. This allows him many hours of

enjoyment, as well as live observation and study to fuel his love of carving. Bud has combined his talent for carving and his love of nature to create waterfowl carvings that have helped him capture many Best of

Shows, both regionally and nationally, since 1982 when he entered the arena of competitive carving. Bud also served for 13 years as President and Chairman for the St. Clair Flats Wildfowl Association and their annual decoy carving show and contest (The Flats Show) held every Spring in



Clinton Township, Michigan. This show's legacy is the rich tradition of market gunning in the St. Clair Flats and Harsen's Island regions of Lake St. Clair, covering approximately 40,000 acres of wetlands. We area's preserving this portion of the areas history for future generations to enjoy.

A look into the collection of his hunting and fishing memorabilia leads one back to a simpler time. A time of wooden decoys, sneak & punt boats and the musty old canvas hunting jacket that's torn with the years briars and harvested birds placed into the bag. You'll find old hunting licenses, begged from relatives, worn as a trophy on his school jacket shown off to all his buddies in school. You'll find some of the old paper shotgun shells with their familiar smell and feel....Winchester, Remington, Peters. There's nothing quite like the smell

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of a recently spent paper shotgun shell. Memories are made of these things.

Bud is well known for his easy going manner, willingness to help and his ever present smile and sense of humor. He has been the inspiration and a mentor for several carvers as they enter the field or need assistance along the way. Bud is carving full time and hunts over many of his hand carved decoys as well as many of the E. Allen Decoys, several of which were made from Bud's original carvings. Bud has long been affiliated with Lock Stock & Barrell, Inc. and the E. Allen Decoy Company, carving original wooden patterns for the company's line of duck decoys as well as helping with the company's marketing and concept developments. Molds are made of Bud's original pattern and decoys are manufactured from a high density urethane foam. These decoys faithfully reproduce all



the fine detail that was in the original carving. These decoys are designed to be painted by the hunter, allowing him/her the opportunity to hunt with decoys from some of the best carvers in the world.

Redheads are a favorite of Bud's, which has led to the nickname of "Mr. Redhead", a badge of honor from his friends and fellow competitors. The Redhead is the first decoy that Bud carved for the E. Allen Decoy Company a couple years ago and it has been a big hit. It's available as a Drake, Hen and a Drake Sleeper, with a Drake Preener currently in

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the works. Bud's most recent carving for the company is his Giant Canvasback. "Big Can", as it has become known, has been well received by hunters and collectors alike. His decoys look good in the water or on the mantle. Bud has been working with us for years and is insightful in his understanding of the bird as well as what is necessary for us from a manufacturing standpoint.

Bud has a long list of contest accomplishments to his credit, having recently won the Betty Odine purchase award at the Pointe Mouillee Duck Hunters Tournament with his Drake Shoveler. Bud



captured 2nd Best of Show in Shooting Stool at The 2002 Westlake Show with his Redhead Rig and then won 1st Best of Show at the 2002 Flats Show in the Market Gunner, 3-Bird Rig Competition. At the Flats Show, Bud also won 1st & 2nd Best of Show in Market Gunner Division with his Redheads (Hen-1st & Drake-2nd).

Bud has worked with and supported Waterfowl USA for nearly 18 years, donating time and decoys to help with their conservation efforts. He will be donating his Market Gunner, 1st Best of Show decoy (Redhead Hen), from the 2002 St. Clair Flats Show, to the December 2002 dinner of Waterfowl USA, being held in Chesterfield, Michigan.

Over the years, Bud and his wife, Carol, have made lasting friendships with outdoor people, carvers and bird lovers

across Canada and the United States of America. Bud is truly an "All American Boy"....from childhood to present day. He is a man I am proud to call a friend.



Lou Tisch is the President of Lock Stock & Barrell, Inc. and The E. Allen Decoy Company, manufacturing duck hunting boats and decoys as well as running a duck hunting guide service. Lou has collaborated on several articles in the past, going back to '83.

Lock Stock & Barrell, Inc. was the first corporate sponsor for Waterfowl USA & their magazine.