



ELI HAYDEL

(1940- 2013) Bossier City, Louisiana

Prior to his death in November, 2013, Eli Haydel, was owner and CEO of “Haydel’s Game Calls, Inc.”, in Bossier City, Louisiana. He had over fifty years of game calling experience. Born and raised in southern Louisiana (Cajun country), he began hunting and fishing at a very early age. He also started playing the saxophone and clarinet while still a young man and this musical knowledge certainly became an asset as he pursued his dream of manufacturing the “perfect” call for hunters, particularly a call which would “blow wet”.

Waterfowl hunting has always been Eli’s favorite sport and in 1975 he became interested in contest calling. Since that time he won numerous local, state, regional and national contest. In 1977, he won both the “Louisiana State” and the “Texas Regional Open”, of which each qualified him to compete in the “World Duck Calling Contest”.

In 1981 Eli started his own call company and was a leader and innovator of many new products. The latest catalog contains over 150 items, and “Haydel” products are highly sought-after as well as now used worldwide.

Eli hunted waterfowl from the Canadian Prairie and wheat fields to the marshes and swamps of the Gulf Coast. These qualifications prompted the “National Rifle Association” to ask Eli to co-author their “Waterfowl Hunting Manual” which covers game calling and decoy arrangement, plus a chapter on how to get our youth interested and started in waterfowl hunting.

He was depicted as a champion caller in Shreveport, Louisiana’s “Sports Hall of Fame” and was also inducted and recognized for his musical ability in Lafayette’s “Louisiana Hall of Fame for Entertainers”. Numerous stories and articles have appeared in hunting magazines regarding Eli’s expertise in the field. He was also featured on hunting shows, with various celebrities, which have been shown on ESPN, TNN, Cabin Country, GAR

Outdoors, Outdoor Tips & Tales and the Outdoor Channel. Numerous companies used Eli as a Pro-Staffer to promote their products nationwide. Some, for example, are Beretta Guns, Blackwater Decoys, Realtree Clothing, Hodgeman Footwear, War Eagle Boats, Yamaha Outboards, etc. He was a member of the Bossier Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Shreveport Elks Club, an honorary auxiliary member of the Bossier City Police Department, a sponsor and Honorary Trustee of "Ducks Unlimited" and in 1997, he was selected as one of the three finalists in the "Louisiana Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Program". In March (1999), he was inducted into the "Louisiana Sportsmen's Hall of Fame" which was held at the Superdome in New Orleans. This was the first year for this event and Eli was the youngest of the inductees to be selected. He was asked by the "South Carolina Waterfowl Association" to be a guest speaker and hands-on instructor at their "Camp Woodie" for young people. In early 1999, he won second place in a "Shoot-Out Event" in Arkansas, sponsored by War Eagle Boats. He won a Benelli shotgun and \$900 cash which he immediately donated to the "St. Jude's Children Hospital" in Memphis, Tennessee.

Eli Haydel was an expert in game calling and always eager to share his tips and techniques. Through years of experience, he earned his nickname as the "Waterfowl Wizard" and was definitely a legend in his own time. Eli will definitely be missed by his friends and family and all that knew him in the outdoor industry.