



NORTH AMERICAN
Decoy Collectors
ASSOCIATION

Winter 2023 Newsletter

It's the Premier Collecting Event of the Year!

**56th North American Vintage Decoy
& Sporting Collectibles Show**

April 25-29, 2023

Westin Chicago Lombard • Lombard, Illinois

The North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectible Show will once again be the largest event of its kind anywhere in 2023. As sponsors of this premier collecting experience, the North American Decoy Collectors Association looks forward to hosting passionate collectors from all over North America at the Westin Chicago Lombard hotel in Lombard, IL, April 25-29.

Our plans for this year's show are ambitious as always, with a selection of activities sure to satisfy every collector's area of interest. In addition to room-to-room trading, Guyette & Deeter's premier auction and a tabled ballroom show, the week will include a variety of sporting collectibles displays, educational seminars, decoy contests, carving demonstrations, silent auctions, free appraisals, and much more.

A full show preview is included in this newsletter along with other interesting and entertaining collecting information. If you are not a member of the North American Decoy Collectors Association, please consider joining to enjoy the many benefits that come with membership including more of these information-packed newsletters, a printed Member Directory, and free entry to the annual show.

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Discover • Preserve • Celebrate

NORTH AMERICAN DECOY COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

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Randy Root	

WHO WE ARE

The **North American Decoy Collectors Association** is a nonprofit, educational organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois. It invites membership to all persons. The purpose of North American Decoy Collectors is to foster the hobby of decoy collecting by attracting new collectors, seeking out and preserving old decoys, gathering data about carvers and their methods, and holding an annual show for decoy collectors and carvers.

OUR HISTORY

The **North American Decoy Collectors Association** was started in 1966 by a small group of dedicated decoy collectors as a gathering in Ottawa, Illinois to reconnect, share stories and trade decoys. Since then, the Club has grown to nearly 800 enthusiasts from all over North America and from all walks of life. They write books on collecting, manage auction companies, publish collector magazines, carve world class decoys, calls and collectibles, provide appraisal services, and form a core network of knowledge on sporting collectibles and their history. That humble gathering of collectors in 1966 has grown to become the **North American Vintage Decoy and Sporting Collectibles Show** – the largest show of its kind. The annual show features room-to-room trading, a tabled show and a major decoy auction in addition to a variety of networking events and educational activities including seminars, displays and carving demonstrations.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING is now being accepted in select issues of the NADCA newsletter. Contact Jeff Seregny at jseregny@gmail.com or 586-530-6586 for rates and availability.

www.nadecoycollectors.org



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We are very pleased with the progress made at our 2022 show after two COVID-driven cancellations. It gives us an excellent base from which to springboard into 2023. Old friends have the confidence to return. Many are updating and refreshing their collections. We are gaining new members monthly. Those trends allow us to create a memorable and fun experience in 2023.

We are building a new website, and the first phase is operational. There are two essential capabilities to explore. First, you can pay your dues online with a credit card and a large number of members have already renewed their membership online. A mail-in form is also available if that is still your preference. Second, the hotel booking link is easy to use to confirm your show plans. The first 65 rooms and 180 room nights are already committed, and the room numbers are assigned.

We are returning to our previous weekly agenda flow. This allowed us to realign the hotel agreement, and I am pleased that we will enjoy attractive event pricing. The hotel has completed its remodeling project, and all rooms have been upgraded. We anticipate occupying 250 rooms, approaching 900 total room nights this year. Use the booking link, as it is the most effective way to manage your room reservations. If you choose to call, you go through the Marriott reservation center, which routes worldwide based on call volume and capacity availability. If you have any issues, please get in touch with me so I can engage our customer support team.

Our prime selling floors are from two through six. We expect to fill all of the rooms on those floors quickly. I am busy building a comprehensive room layout and reaching out to everyone to understand your goals to create the best possible plan. Please make your reservations as soon as possible.

The demand for ballroom show space is accelerating as we already have commitments for over 150 tables. Matt Bryant

plays a vital role in designing each year's show plan, navigating a wide range of complex requirements. Please finalize your plans and communicate your needs as soon as possible.

One key objective for our organization is to help our members become well-informed collectors. We do that in many ways. This year, we will feature seminars on Lake St. Clair fish, Sibley, and Lake Koshkonong decoys. You will be pleased with the depth of knowledge available on these subjects.

We are grateful that Herb and Carolynn Desch have chosen to sell the best of their collection through Guyette & Deeter during our event. I have spent many hours discussing decoys with Herb and helped him acquire many of these treasures. I know you will enjoy seeing them as most have never been available to the public.

The Callmakers and Collectors group deserves your attention and support at the show as they share their passion with us each year. Their work is stunning.

I'm delighted that Kurt Woodworth is joining the Board and will help us focus on member development and retention. It is gratifying to see Kurt and Matt Bryant continuing their fathers' exceptional legacy and passion for sporting collectibles. They both bring great backgrounds to our organization as they grew up attending our events.

Randy Root has been elected Director Emeritus and served on the Board almost from the Club's beginning. I am grateful for his continued support. He also helps the Peoria Museum as they celebrate the decoy and its unique place in American history.

The last three years have made us better and more robust, showing that we can do more together. Liz and I are grateful for your support; we have felt your energy. Happy collecting, and please find a way to join us for fun in 2023.

Rick



The First Show in Lombard was a Hit!!



We are always looking for anything by Elmer Crowell for private sale or auction
or any quality duck decoys and shorebirds by known or unknown makers.

Thank You, Ted and Judy Harmon

Exceptional Trios

Working black ducks and red-breasted mergansers, circa 1912
Anthony "Elmer" Crowell (1862-1952)



Theodore S. Harmon

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www.decoysunlimitedinc.net

Check our website homepage slider to view decoys sold at past auctions
at www.decoysunlimitedinc.net.

Member News

Membership Is as Strong as Ever



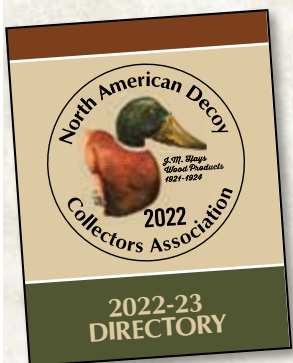
The Club continues to add new members and our membership roster has now exceeded the pre-COVID highs. This certainly suggests that the hobby remains very strong. At the same time, our membership also continues to diversify both geographically as well as in terms of the variety of collectible categories represented. While the Club's heritage is firmly rooted in waterfowl decoys, our members' collecting interests include virtually everything related to North America's great hunting and fishing history. Fish spearing decoys and related items, punt guns, ammunition company posters and pinbacks, shot shell boxes, powder tins, fishing tackle, hunting skiffs, and many more items are now gracing our members' shelves.

Your Email Address Keeps You In the Loop

Our goal is always to communicate important Club information to our members as quickly and efficiently as possible. Simply put, that's best accomplished online using your current email address.

Recent email blasts tell us that there are a number of member email addresses that are no longer working. These emails bounce back to us as undeliverable. In addition, we still have some members who have not previously provided an email address. Unfortunately, these members are missing some important Club communications. For example, two of our yearly Club newsletters are currently only distributed by email, eliminating the high cost of printing and mailing through the Postal Service. Additionally, other time-sensitive updates regarding the annual show may be missed.

So, check your Member Directory to ensure that we have a current email address for you. Please send updated or new email addresses to jseregny@gmail.com so that we can make sure that you get all of the Club communications in the future.



Check Out the New Club Website at nadecoycollectors.org

Taking advantage of rapidly improving technology, the Club introduced a new website late last year using one of today's more user-friendly platforms. This will allow us to keep the content fresher and more useful for our members, and do so in a more accessible form. The new design provides easy navigation allowing members and other visitors, regardless of their experience level, to quickly find content that is of interest to them. It includes valuable resources for new collectors as well as a raft of information to help enhance every collector's enjoyment of the hobby.

In the "Upcoming Events" section visitors will find the latest information on our annual show including the daily schedule. It includes an online link for reserving rooms at the Westin hotel in Lombard, Illinois, as well as a downloadable Table Registration Form for those planning to sell in the ballroom on Friday and Saturday.



We have also implemented a new, easy to use online payment tool that will let current members renew and new members to join using a credit card. The process is much simpler than in the past and does not require a unique username or password. It works the same as any other online purchase you might make. We will be adding new content and additional capabilities to the site in the coming months, so check in often to see what's new.

Member News

Kurt Woodworth Joins NADCA Board



Please welcome Kurt Woodworth to the NADCA Board of Directors. Kurt has been in Human Resource Management for 35 years and has been collecting for just as long. He grew up in Kansas where he learned to hunt and fish. He credits his late father Lynn for not only

teaching him to hunt, but for introducing him to the joy of hunting and fishing collectibles. In the beginning he cut his teeth on duck calls but has spent the last 20 plus years in the decoy world. Over the years, he has spent countless hours learning everything he knows from his father about the art of collecting as well earning the respect of others through an honest deal. While his primary focus has been Mason decoys and other factory birds, over the last 10 years he's branched out with interest in Illinois River/East coast decoys and various shorebirds. Kurt currently lives in Olathe, Kansas and when he's not working, he enjoys spending time with his kids and family, in the field hunting, searching for new decoys, and developing new friendships with other collectors.

Facebook Group Continues to Grow

Our Members Only Facebook collector group now boasts over 270 members currently participating. These members are sharing their favorite pieces, getting help with ID and valuation, and even buying and selling among other members in a secure and safe environment. Unlike other online collector groups, there's the assurance that you'll always have a shared connection with whomever you are dealing. To join the group, just go to the "North American Decoy Collectors Association (Members Only) group on Facebook and request to join. Once approved, you'll be ready to join in!



SPECIAL OFFER:
Join by March 31, 2023
and get a FREE NADCA hat!*



Tails from
the Trail

Finding Milo Crumb

by Pete Munger
Niagara Falls, Ontario

Member News

Not an NADCA Member?

JOIN NOW to Experience All of the Benefits of Membership

If you enjoy reading this newsletter, please consider joining the NADCA to receive more like this and the many other benefits reserved exclusively for our members including:

- Access to the largest decoy and sporting collectibles community in North America
- Printed Member Directory which is also full of other valuable collector information
- Full subscription to our three times per year Club newsletter including our email only versions
- Free entry to our annual show, including access to the Members Only "Early Bird" session
- Access to our Members Only Facebook group where you can share decoy stories, get help with ID, and buy, sell and trade with other members in a secure environment

All this for only \$25 a year (or \$70 for the more efficient three year option)!

You can simply use a credit card to JOIN ONLINE at nadecoycollectors.org, or complete and mail the application below. Either way, JOIN BY MARCH 31 and get a FREE NADCA hat! *

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Collecting Interest(s): _____

***NOTE: Free hat offer valid for non-renewal, first time memberships only.**



- \$25 Membership Fee (1 year)
- \$70 Membership Fee (3 years)
- \$500 Membership Fee (Lifetime)

Make check payable to: North American
Decoy Collectors Association
Mail check to: Matt Bryant
17114 Erskine Street
Omaha, NE 68116

I acquired this Anger style Bufflehead years ago from a fellow in Ft. Erie, Ontario, just because I liked it (the best reason in my opinion). It has original paint and brass tack eyes. Years later someone gave me a stack of old Ontario "Out of Doors" magazines and as I was thumbing through them I stumbled on an article in the September 1975 issue with the author holding the very same same decoy (what are the odds?). The article is about duck shooting in Gravelly Bay at Port Colbourne. I was eventually able to track down the author, Erno Rossi, (well known for his book "White Death" about the blizzard of '77) and asked him if he recalled the decoy he was holding in the picture. His response, "Oh ya, Milo Crumb made that!". One of many to copy Anger's work. I think Milo did it well!



2023 Show Preview

The Westin Lombard, April 25-29, 2023



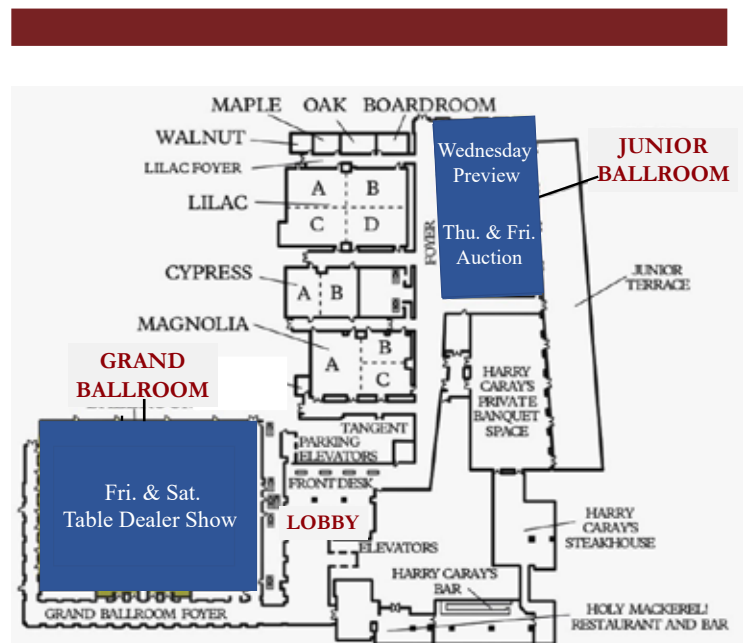
A Unique Experience

As the largest and longest running decoy and sporting collectible show of its kind, the 56th annual North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show will once again offer something for everybody with room-to-room trading, the Guyette & Deeter premier auction, and 2-day exhibit hall dealer sales event. For many who attend, this is their opportunity to rekindle old friendships, take advantage of educational opportunities, in addition to adding a decoy, call or some other sporting collectible to their collection. The show is simply a “must attend” gathering for anyone interested in America’s hunting and fishing past and the great folk art that grew from it.

A Perfect Location

The Show will once again take place at the Westin Chicago Lombard hotel in Lombard, Illinois. As last year’s attendees learned, the property features large sleeping/selling rooms, well-lit exhibit space and countless amenities. This modern hotel has all that one would expect from Marriott Corporation including a large swimming pool, state of the art fitness center, and dining options at Harry Carays Bar and Italian Steakhouse, and the Holy Mackerel Restaurant. Right across the street the Yorktown Center offers a broad array of additional dining and shopping options.

On the following pages you’ll find a preview the many activities planned for this year’s event including a variety of displays and educational seminars that are so popular with show attendees. Check out the day-by-day calendar of events on the opposite page.



The Tabled Dealer Show and the Guyette & Deeter Auction are conveniently located just steps apart on the same level which allows attendees to easily experience both events on Friday simultaneously. A TV monitor in the Grand Ballroom will allow attendees stay current on auction progress.

Some Key Events to Remember

- › A **Members Only “Early Bird”** session in the Grand Ballroom on Friday will open at 11am prior to the public admission at 1pm. This is a great opportunity for non-members to come early, join the NADCA, and get the first look at dealer offerings before the general public. You can join at the door or send in the Member Application found on page seven of this newsletter.
- › **Silent Auctions** will run continuously on Friday and Saturday in the Grand Ballroom. This is a chance for members to move some inventory and to support the club at the same time. You missed a chance at some pretty special items last April if you didn’t participate.
- › **Free Appraisals** are offered in the lobby of the Grand Ballroom on both Friday and Saturday. Think “Antiques Roadshow.” It’s a great opportunity for folks to learn about and put a value on those items that have been sitting in the attic for far too long. We’ve seen some very special items come through the doors over the years.



Make room reservations at the Westin Chicago Lombard Hotel one of two ways.

- Go to the Club website at nadecoycollectors.org, click on “Upcoming Events” and reserve online.
- Call Westin Chicago Lombard 24/7 Reservations at (888) 627-9031. Be sure to mention that you are attending the decoy show to enjoy our special rate.
- Reserve your selling tables for the Grand Ballroom dealer event using the “Table Reservation Form” in the back of this newsletter.



Show Schedule

Tuesday, April 25

All Day – **Room-to-Room trading**

Wednesday, April 26

All Day – **Room-to-Room trading**

9am – Lake St. Clair Fish Decoy Seminar

5pm-7pm – Auction Preview Reception

Thursday, April 27

All Day – **Room-to-Room trading**

9am – Sibley Decoy Seminar

10am – Guyette & Deeter Auction (Day 1)

2pm-5pm – Show Registration

2pm – Evans Collectors Meeting

3:30pm – Lake Koshkonong Decoy Seminar

7pm-11pm – Call Makers Auction & Party

Friday, April 28

8am – Call Makers Meeting & Contest Judging

9am-11am – Dealer set-up

10am – **Guyette & Deeter Auction (Day 2)**

11am-1pm – **Members Only “Early Bird” Show**

1pm-7pm – **Public Grand Ballroom Dealer Event**

- Lake Koshkonong Decoy Display

- Sibley Decoy Display

- Lake Poygan Shooting Box Display

- Carving Demonstrations/Displays

- Continuous Silent Auctions

- Free Identification and Appraisals

Saturday, April 29

9am-2pm – **Public Grand Ballroom Dealer Event**

Displays / Exhibits / Demonstrations
Silent Auctions / Appraisals Continue

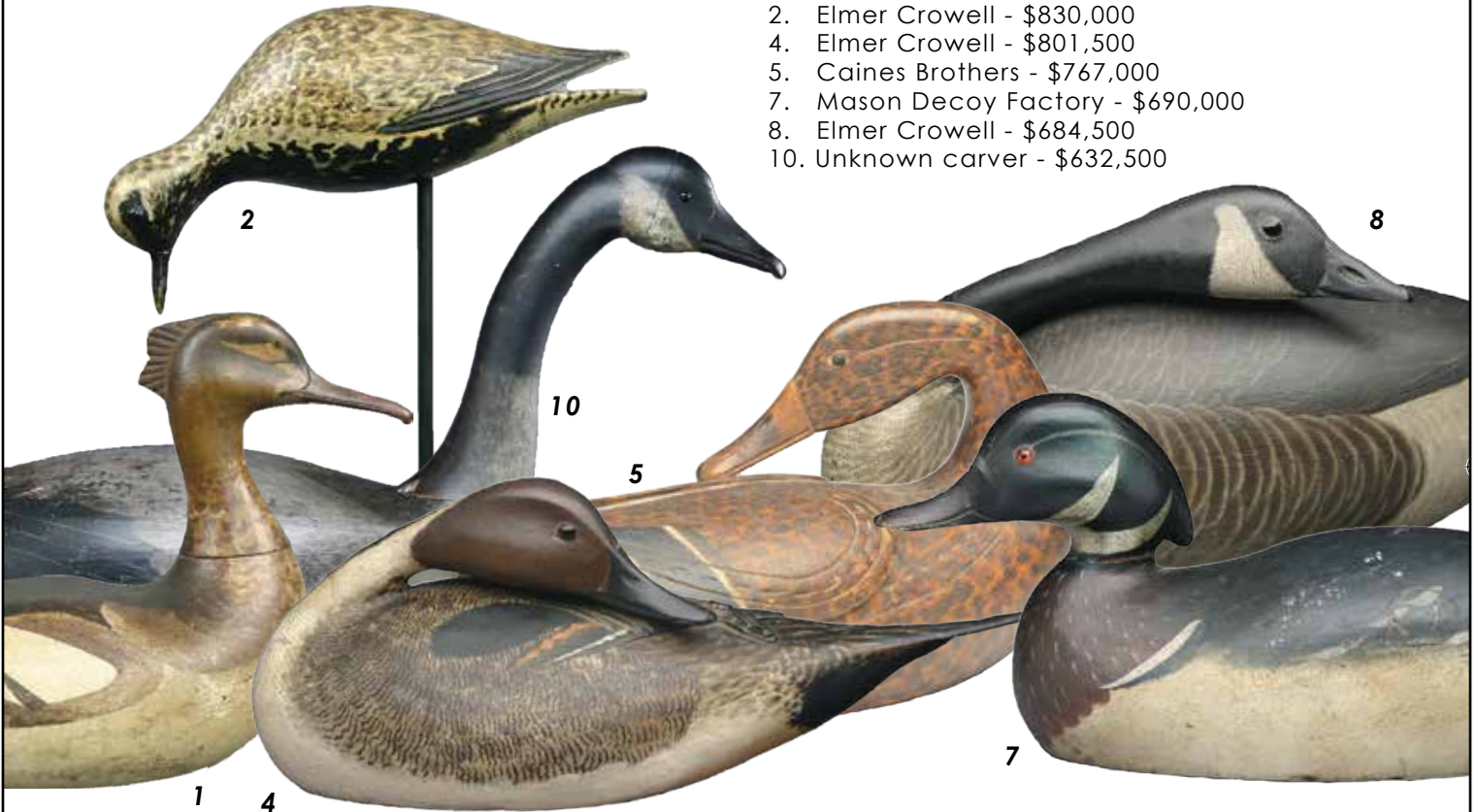
Guyette & Deeter, Inc.

The Leading and Most Trusted Decoy Auction Firm in the World
Guaranteed Condition Reports

*Working in partnership with the North American Decoy Collectors Club
for over 30 years to bring you the best annual gathering possible.*

We have sold seven of the top ten highest priced decoys ever to be sold at auction.

1. Lothrop Holmes - \$856,000
2. Elmer Crowell - \$830,000
4. Elmer Crowell - \$801,500
5. Caines Brothers - \$767,000
7. Mason Decoy Factory - \$690,000
8. Elmer Crowell - \$684,500
10. Unknown carver - \$632,500



To discuss current values or future plans for your decoys and sporting art, contact :

Jon Deeter | jdeeter@guyetteanddeeter.com | 440-610-1768

Zac Cote | zcote@guyetteanddeeter.com | 207-321-8091

Cooper Rossner | cooper@guyetteanddeeter.com | 609-560-8028

Decoy and Sporting Art Auctions

April | August | November

Fine Sporting Arms Auctions

February | September

Weekly Online Only Auctions

Ending every Thursday night



410-745-0485

1210 S Talbot St, Unit A
St. Michaels, MD 21663

www.guyetteanddeeter.com

Weekly Online Auctions at **Guyetteanddeeter.com**

Weekly Online Auctions Ending Every Thursday Night at 7:00 pm
Guaranteed condition reports, multiple photos, quick shipping and quality items. Bid with confidence.



Early duck call, Perry Hooker, Memphis, Tennessee Sold! \$3,522

Guyette & Deeter's growing and trusted online only weekly auction platform has found a new home.

Go to www.guyetteanddeeter.com for all upcoming sales. Including weekly online only, premier decoy and sporting art, and fine sporting arms sales.

In 2022, we sold well over 2300 items in our weekly sales, all with guaranteed condition reports and multiple photos.



Excellent decorative pintail, Jim Schmiedlin, Bradfordwoods, Pennsylvania Sold! \$6,325



Excellent sleeping mallard hen, Robert Elliston, Bureau, Illinois. Sold! \$8,510

2023 QUARTERLY SUPER SALES

- March
- June
- September
- December



For questions or possible consignments contact
Cooper Rossner | 609-560-8028 | cooper@guyetteanddeeter.com

Member Display and Seminar

The Decoys of Lake Koshkonong



This year's Member Display and accompanying seminar will tell the fascinating story of Lake Koshkonong's Golden Era (1848-1906). Once referred to as the "Chesapeake of the West" by early hunters, this area was frequented by market hunters, wealthy industrialists, politicians, military men and outdoors writers who came in pursuit of the clouds of canvasbacks that came to feed on the lake's abundant wild aquatic celery.

DISPLAY: Available for viewing in the Grand Ballroom on Friday and Saturday, this special display will illustrate the unique features of these early decoys, including their evolution from birds that bore striking similarities to those hunted on the Susquehanna Flats to the later "Hotel Style" birds with their more swept back heads and carrying hotel or club brands. Other related items from this era will also be on display.

SEMINAR: On Thursday afternoon, NADCA Board Member and Koshkonong historian Al Steffen will present the history of this once rich waterfowling area. Al has written several articles on "Kosh" decoys and the many theories on how they came to be. He will discuss the colorful history of the area and the men who came en masse to hunt the canvasbacks in the late 1880's. He will also talk about the many hunt clubs and hotels that emerged on the shores of the lake to accommodate the many who came to the area to take advantage of its superior hunting. The story of these rare decoys is indeed a complex and still somewhat mysterious one. This seminar is sure to be an educational experience for us all.



Fine Sporting Arms Auctions

February • September



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Exceedingly rare L.C. Smith A-3 Grade 12 gauge



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Educational Seminars:

Lake St. Clair Fish Decoy Seminar

Connecting Michigan's Lake Huron to the north and Lake Erie to the south, Lake St. Clair has long been one of the most active and productive spear fishing locations in the Midwest. As a result, the quantity and quality of decoys used by early fishermen on the lake is simply remarkable.

On Wednesday morning, Jon Deeter, principal of the Guyette & Deeter auction house, will present, "The Fabulous Fish Decoys Made and Used on Lake St. Clair." He will focus on the decoys made by important makers such as Hans Janner, Andy Trombley, Horace "Bart" Perkins, Abraham DeHate, Jim Rosen, Charles Kellman and others. These craftsmen demonstrated creativity and ingenuity that resulted in some of today's most sought after fish spearing decoys. Some of the finest examples known will be on hand for attendees to examine.

In addition, Jon will regale the crowd with stories about some of the early pickers such as Jerry Catana, Ed Denavare, Charlie Hart, and Jerry Adams – men who were on the forefront of discovering many of the best examples of these exquisite fish.

Given the recent high prices brought by some of these decoys, you won't want to miss this important seminar.



Educational Seminars:

Sibley Decoy Display & Seminar

For many years the Sibley decoy was attributed to a “Mr. X,” a moniker given to these unique birds by early collector Joe French in the 1950s. The only decoy known to be made with a hardwood inserted bill, the Sibley decoys were eventually found to have been manufactured by Sibley & Co. of Whitehall, Michigan. Production began in 1899 and continued for about a decade.

SEMINAR: On Thursday morning prior to the opening of the ballroom event, Sibley collector/historian Bob Poel, along with Stan Van Etten, will share the fascinating history of these decoys that will no doubt come as an exciting and unique surprise to even the longtime collector in the audience. Along with a fascinating discussion of these decoys and their characteristics, the duo will talk about the hunting experiences of the Sibley brothers, George and John.

DISPLAY: Complementing the seminar, Poel and Van Etten will host an expansive display of these rare decoys and answer questions from show attendees on both Friday and Saturday in the Grand Ballroom. The display will feature decoys from Sibley’s personal rig, X-rays of Sibley decoy interiors and hollowing techniques, as well as various techniques used to insert the bills.

Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about these once “unknown” decoys.





THANK YOU

FOR MAKING COPLEY THE WORLD'S LEADING DECOY AND SPORTING ART FIRM

With an emphasis on quality over quantity, the Copley team once again leads the field, selling 9 of the top 10 decoy lots in 2022.

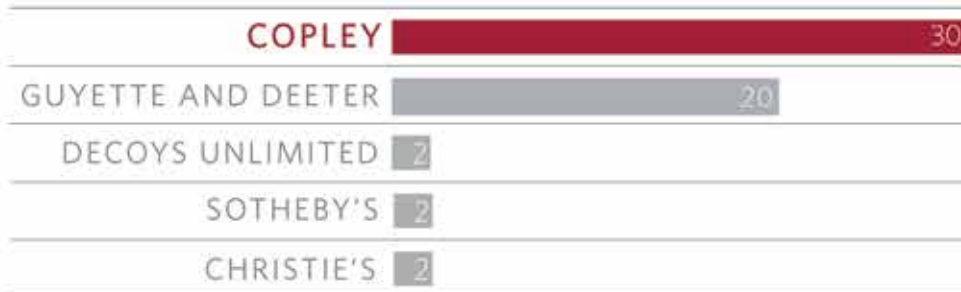


The Harmon Hollow Nantucket Curlew, sold for \$228,00, a world record for any Nantucket decoy

THE WINTER SALE 2023 | FEB. 24-25 | 650 LOTS
ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS FOR THE SPORTING SALE 2023

SELLING THE TOP DECOYS IN TODAY'S MARKET

Since 2009, Copley has placed more decoy lots on the "100 All-Time High Prices" list than all of the other auction firms combined. Source: *Decoy Magazine*



With a combined 95 years of real industry experience, the Copley Decoy Team helps clients make educated and informed buying and selling decisions.

- GUARANTEED CONDITION REPORTS
- VERIFIED RESULTS
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- ESTATE PLANNING AND COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT

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757.999.0078

Debbie and Jim Allen
Decoy Specialist (Jim)
jim@copleyart.com
609.709.9802

PREVIEW THE SALE AT [COPLEYART.COM](https://www.copleyart.com)

COPLEY FINE ART AUCTIONS, LLC | info@copleyart.com | 617.536.0030



MA #2428

Member Contests



Bring Your Bufflehead Decoys

Each year, on Saturday we hold a species-specific decoy contest for our members. This year's contest will feature Bufflehead decoys – often referred to as “butterballs” for their ability to put on quantities of fat during fall migration.

We will conduct two separate contests — one for vintage Bufflehead decoys and one for contemporary Bufflehead decoys. So, members should start planning for which “butterballs” they want to enter – one entry in both the vintage and contemporary categories is allowed. Pairs count as a single entry. This should be a great competition and is sure to generate a lot of interest among all show attendees as all entries will be on display throughout the day on Saturday.

WE'LL MISS YOU THIS YEAR!



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RUSS GOLDBERGER

RJGAntiques.com • 603.433.1770 • Russ@RJGAntiques.com



Guyette & Deeter Auction Returns to Thursday & Friday

As usual, the Guyette & Deeter sale at the show will feature a broad array of wonderful items ensuring that there will be something to interest virtually every collector. From fish decoys by Hans Janner to waterfowl decoys by the likes of Ferdinand Bach, Ward Brothers, and Elmer Crowell, this auction is sure to generate a lot of attention.

This year, the auction related events return to their traditional days beginning with the Preview Reception on Wednesday evening from 5-7pm.

The first day of the auction is on Thursday beginning at 10am with previewing available 8am. On Friday the auction also starts at 10am, again with the opportunity to preview items one last time starting



at 8am. There will be a television monitor on hand in the Grand Ballroom so that all dealers and show goers can keep tabs on the auction giving them plenty of time to make the short walk over to the sale to get in on the action.

On Saturday, a number of items to be sold in Guyette & Deeter's summer sale will be available for inspection. Don't miss this opportunity to handle pieces, particularly if you can't be in Portsmouth, NH this summer.



Callmakers And Collectors Annual Get-Together

The Callmakers and Collectors Association of America (CCAA) will once again hold their annual meeting during our show. On Thursday evening, the group conducts a Fancy Call Contest followed by a Pizza Party and Custom Call Auction.

On Friday morning they will hold their annual membership and business meeting. On Friday afternoon and on Saturday the Fancy Call Contest entries and results are on display in the Grand Ballroom for all to enjoy. This is a great opportunity to see the fine work by these talented craftsmen.

Show Displays

Wisconsin Gunning Boxes on Display Once Again



For the past several years, show attendees have marveled at the ingenuity demonstrated through the work of so many Wisconsin hunters of the past. So, once again this year NADCA Director Emeritus Roger Ludwig will assemble another group of classic Lake Poygan (WI) gunning boxes at the show for all to admire. These unique, multi-faceted, wooden "totes" were tools of the Wisconsin hunting trade that allowed these early waterfowlers to more easily transport and organize everything they needed for a successful hunt. These boxes represent the epitome of creativity in their design as they often provided a cradle for a gun as well as multiple cubbies for housing all sorts of hunting paraphernalia. Attendees are encouraged to spend some time examining these boxes as each one is unique in its design and utility.

Wes Douglass

(209) 761-1638

backwaterwes@yahoo.com

Decoys from all regions
with an emphasis on
Mason factory decoys.



Come see me
In Room # 237



Contemporary

CARVING AND PAINTING DEMONSTRATIONS OFFER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE



CORNER

Located in a special area of the Grand Ballroom, a number of today's folk artists will showcase their decoy making talents in the Contemporary Corner. This will include carving and painting demonstrations where attendees can learn the "tricks of the trade" directly from these contemporary masters. These popular demonstrations represent a great learning opportunity for fledgling decoy makers and anyone with an interest in understanding how decoys are made.



DECOY MAGAZINE

Celebrating America's finest folk art

The **ONLY** magazine dedicated exclusively to decoy collectors

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Includes 6 bi-monthly issues plus an annual Year in Review issue

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Sample Copies: \$12.95 each
includes shipping

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Journey's End

Celebrating the Spirit of the Canvasback



The canvasback is the king of the marsh.

In 1960 during the fall hunt I had the opportunity with my grandpa to witness a flock of eight cans fighting against a big wind as they arrived at Pelican lake in Northern Minnesota. They struggled to get to a calm spot along the marsh out of the winds. There were five drakes and three hens. They immediately went to sleep when they hit the water. These decoys were created by Cameron McIntyre to celebrate this memory.

- ▶ Collecting since 1960
- ▶ Working and old survivor decoys

Rick Sandstrom

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Marion, Iowa 52302

flyer180@gmail.com

319.431.3861

MEMBER PROFILE:

Jon Sarver

LOVE OF WATERFOWLING HISTORY RUNS DEEP

NORTH AMERICAN
Decoy Collectors
ASSOCIATION

For Illinois native Jon Sarver growing up on the banks of the Illinois River in Chillicothe meant that duck hunting was just a way of life.



He fondly recalls the thrill of watching thousands of ducks flock out in the nearby cornfields in the fall. He enjoyed that the waterfowl scene around town was always active. He estimates that 60% of the folks who lived there were duck hunters and it seemed like just about everybody had a decoy or two around the house. With rapt attention he would listen to old timers tell stories of epic hunts while some spoke of finding decoys in the frozen ice along the river, kicking their heads off and chipping the bodies out to use for firewood. Simply put, it's no surprise that Jon is so connected to the waterfowling life in this area and its long, colorful history that is filled with so many great characters. And it's certainly no surprise that he surrounds himself with so many tools of the waterfowling trade to this day.

Collecting Begins

Like so many of us, Jon's collecting began rather modestly. Around 20 years of age, he happened to visit a local banker and was surprised and excited to find a display of old decoys in his office. This rekindled so many



Cameron McIntyre Pintail, Frank Finney Turkey

memories from his childhood that he just knew that he had to have a decoy of his own. It wasn't long before he acquired his first decoy -- an old Victor mallard that he found at a local garage sale. He recalls thinking, "Decoys are just the coolest things!" He was fascinated that these old things were floated on the backwaters of the Illinois River...right in his own backyard! Over the decade that followed he bought a few more birds here and there, but without much direction or focus. However, the seeds had been planted for what would become a passion for collecting not just decoys but almost anything related to waterfowling and its history.

Learning the Ropes

Jon got serious about collecting in his late 20's. By then, he had a bit more time and resources to devote to the pursuit but he knew that he had to learn a lot more. If he was going to get into the hobby in a more meaningful way. He quickly began immersing himself in anything he could find that was

written about decoys. He claims to have read "Decoys of the Illinois River" front to back at least five times!

During the same period, he started going to shows, beginning with the Henry Show in the early 1990s, where he met Joe Tonelli, long-time collector, historian, and one of the founders of what is today the North American Decoy Collectors Association. Jon says that it was Joe who had the biggest influence on his collecting, mentoring Jon along the way through visits to Joe's expansive collection of waterfowling artifacts, and through occasional trips to Tonelli's hunting camp in South Dakota where they would spend hours talking about decoys.

Not long after, Jon met Randy Root while working as a vet tech at a veterinarian's office in Peoria. He soon learned that Randy was into decoys and had a thriving hunt club. He was later able to visit Randy, examine his collection and significantly add to his decoy education. Since then he has been able to enjoy visits with

many other collectors who have willingly shared their collections and their knowledge. Among them are NADCA members Dave Kneebone, Pat Gregory, Gary Fountain, and Mike Lashbrook.

Jon has since parlayed his relationship with Pat Gregory into a passion for carving decoys as well. About four years ago he began taking decoy making lessons from Pat. Along with his wife, Amy, an accomplished painter who was mentored by Mike Lashbrook, the



Original Ward Brothers 1936 Model carving pattern

couple has beautifully restored a number of classic Illinois River decoys including a wonderful sleeper Mallard hen carved by Charles Perdw. The team has already become a “go-to” restoration source for many collectors in the Midwest.

Decoy Collecting

Not surprisingly, Jon initially focused on collecting decoys from the Illinois River area given his frequent exposure to and familiarity with decoys from the region. His collection boasts fine examples from many of the Illinois River’s most accomplished makers including Virgil Lashbrook, Mario Pioletti, Charles Schoenheider, Robert Elliston, Lane school, as well as a very early Canvasback made by



Cameron McIntyre Pintail flyer (top); Jon & Amy Sarver Teal flyers (middle); Marty Hanson Teal & Brant (shelf middle:left); R.D. Wilson Canvasbacks (shelf right); Unknown Illinois Crow (middle)



Josh Brewer Preening Brant, Blue Hill, Maine, from his personal rig



Jon/Amy Sarver Blue-Winged Teal, East Peoria, Illinois



Schoenheider father/son collaboration Mallard ice ducks, Peoria, Illinois, ca. 1930s



Gunning box, Shot Shell Crate & Marty Hanson Geese display



Henry Ruggles Canvasback, Henry, IL ca. 1880



Lafin & Rand Powder Co. Infallible Advertising

Henry Ruggles, one of the first decoy makers along the Illinois River.

However, over time his regular attendance at shows in the Midwest (Chicago, Henry, Utica), as well as Easton on the east coast, have had a significant influence on broadening his collecting interests. Today, his collection includes fine examples by Canadians George Warin and Tory Ward, Wisconsin folk artists Gus Moak and Frank Resop, as well as east coast makers such as Elmer Crowell and the Ward Brothers. Jon has a particular affinity for a Ward Brothers miniature goose in his collection.

It is signed and dated 1965, the year he was born. His shelves are also graced by the work of a number of today's finest contemporary decoy makers, including Marty Hanson, Cameron McIntyre, Josh Brewer, and R.D. Wilson.

Among all of his birds, Jon says that his "favorite" is a 1969 Canvasback by the Ward Brothers. He has become a big fan of their work and the poem written on the bottom of this Can handwritten by Lem Ward makes it very special to him. He is quick to add that he is always looking to add more Wards to his shelves.



Ward Brothers Canvasback, Crisfield, MD, 1969 with poem by Len

Collecting Waterfowling History

Jon's interest in sporting collectibles goes well beyond waterfowl decoys. His home is filled with a variety of artifacts that represent the rich history of waterfowling in America. Around every corner visitors will find any number of shot shell boxes, gunning boxes, fish decoys, sporting art, and an old gunning skiffs. He also owns a number of patterns used by various Illinois River decoy makers including a pattern employed by Charles Schoenheider for his iconic standing geese.

Jon smiles as he tells the story of acquiring a beautifully made skiff from Wisconsin that he found in a barn sitting under a roost fre-

quented by many local pigeons. He admits to frequently pestering the owner to sell it, repeatedly asking how long he planned to let that pigeon "poop" pile up on the worn, old relic. Eventually the owner relented and Jon was able to restore it and hang in his living room filled with his favorite decoys from Wisconsin. It makes for a stunning display!

Coincidentally, this same owner later connected Jon to another



Marty Hanson Brant, Hayward Wisconsin



R.D. Wilson Dead Mount Goose, Mayflower, AR

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Wisconsin Skiff, ca. 1920s



Wisconsin fish decoys

Wisconsin collector who was ready to part with some fish decoys. The owner was a professor at the University of Wisconsin for many years and was an artist as well. Jon jokes that this guy was just “a little different.” He had apparently made it a habit to visit local bars on the morning of the opening day of the sturgeon season to drink beer and try to buy as many “coaxers” as he could from

local fishermen. When Jon went to his house to look at the fish, he found almost 250 fish decoys on the owner’s living room floor carefully arranged in a circle as though they were swimming. Some were 4-5 feet long! The owner would only sell them as a single lot, but Jon was determined. Despite the owner’s eccentricities, Jon was able to buy the group which included a number of really folksy

unknowns as well as some good Leroy Howell fish.

Supporting Our Hobby

Fortunately for all of us, Jon has long been much more than a collector of these treasures. He’s long been a great advocate for the hobby we all so enjoy. In 2003 he started the Chillicothe (IL) Decoy Show and ran it until 2008 when a busy life with kids and work eventually made continuing impossible. This show eventually became NADCA Board member Dave Kneebone’s show now located in Utica, Illinois. The good news is that Jon is now getting back in the event game. He recently took over the Henry Show and just had his first event in early February. He hopes to grow it back to its hey day when nearly 1000 local enthusiasts came through the door.

We thank Jon for his willingness to share his collecting experience with us and for working so hard to keep the hobby vital. You can reach Jon at boonerwhitetail@yahoo.com.

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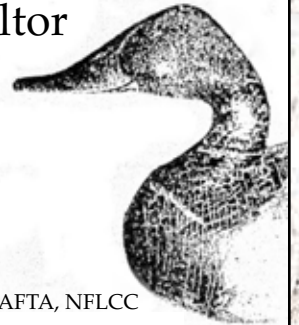
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Reserve Your Tables for the April 28-29, 2023 Grand Ballroom Dealer Show now using the Table Registration Form on the next page! >>>>>

As in the past, priority will be given to returning exhibitors who have held tables in prior years **provided your reservation and payment is received by March 15th. The table cost remains the same as last year:**

- \$75 per table for reservations and payment by March 15, 2023
- \$100 per table for reservation and payment after March 15, 2023

Early Grand Ballroom Set-Up Time!

Set-up time in the Grand Ballroom of The Westin will be on Friday morning from 9am until 11am. The doors will be open at 11am for a Members Only "Early Bird" session before the public comes in at 1pm. Only table exhibitors will be allowed in the Grand Ballroom during the set-up hours.

A name badge will be provided for all exhibitors, available at the Show Registration Desk beginning on Thursday afternoon. Please wear this badge in the Grand Ballroom at all times.

Send in Your Table Reservation Form Now!

To reserve your tables, please fill out the Table Reservation Form on the next page and return it, along with your check no later than March 15, 2023. (Note that tables are 6' X 30".) Make sure to indicate at the bottom of the form if you would like your table(s) to be located next to another specific dealer. We will do everything we can to accommodate these requests. Your canceled check is your confirmation.

You can contact Matt Bryant at (785) 201-2923 or matt.bryant@wilsonco.com if you have questions.

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BALLROOM EVENT EXHIBITOR TABLE REGISTRATION FORM

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_____ Dues are paid up through the year of the show (Y/N)

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PLEASE NOTE: All exhibitors must be NADCA members in good standing. If not already paid for the year of the show, you can pay your annual dues online at nadecoycollectors.org or by including your dues along with your table payment. **If someone is sharing your table**, they must either be a family member, or be a NADCA member in good standing. They can join online at nadecoycollectors.org or by including their dues payment and member profile information along with this form.

Checks should be made payable to the NADCA.	Amount
_____ # of Table(s) @ \$75 each (\$100 each if after March 15)	\$ _____
Dues @ \$25 for one year or \$70 for 3 years	\$ _____
TOTAL PAYMENT INCLUDED	\$ _____

**Note : Tables are 6' X 30" with white tablecloths.

Special requests:

We will make every effort to keep dealers who want to be placed next to each other together.

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