



NORTH AMERICAN
Decoy Collectors
ASSOCIATION

Winter 2024 Newsletter

The “Granddaddy of Them All” is Coming Soon!

It’s the 57th North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show

April 23-27, 2024

Westin Chicago Lombard, Lombard, IL

As sure as the winter turns to spring, the North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show will once again take place at the Westin Chicago Lombard hotel in Lombard, Illinois, April 23-27. As the largest and longest running show of its kind, this is a “must attend” event for anyone who has interest in the decoys or other sporting collectibles that grew from our rich hunting and fishing heritage.

As always, we have big plans for our 57th annual show beginning with room-to-room trading, a Guyette & Deeter auction, and concluding with a 2-day tabled event in the hotel’s Grand Ballroom. The week will include a fascinating seminar, a variety of displays, carving demonstrations, silent auctions, free appraisals and more.

You’ll find a preview of all of the show activities in this newsletter, along with a variety of other information of interest to collectors. If you are not currently a member of the North American Decoy Collectors Association, please consider joining today. You’ll receive more club newsletters like this, a member directory, networking opportunities, and free entry to the annual show.

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Discover • Preserve • Celebrate

NORTH AMERICAN DECOY COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

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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

Our association was formed in 1966 by a small group of collectors who loved decoys and knew that they needed to learn more from each other. These creations were a unique form of American folk art that represented the spirit of our culture. That recognition has been spreading, and interest is accelerating.

Pay attention. There are many factors creating a tremendous opportunity for our annual event in April. Decoys that have been in collections for decades are coming to market.

The impact of COVID-19 has had an interesting effect, giving us all time to reflect and be at home, which made us appreciate each other and our decoys even more. Combining our knowledge, collecting experiences, and the ability to examine over 30,000 items at our show is a stunning learning opportunity.

I appreciate Bill Dodge for volunteering to lead our member display. It will focus on Dodge, Peterson, and Mason decoys, allowing us to see direct comparisons to stimulate our discussion and learning.

Contemporary decoys are gaining lots of attention, and it is well deserved. Pat Gregory leads the "Contemporary Corner" each year as our decoy making volunteers

demonstrate techniques and engage in enjoyable discussions. Our featured contemporary carver this year is Josh Brewer, and we are thrilled. He has a deep connection with nature and wildfowl, and his talent is stunning.

Joe Tonelli, along with Jon Deeter, will lead our educational seminar, and it is an honor that he will share many stories from their early days helping Alan and Elaine Haid assemble their iconic collection.

The member decoy contest will feature mergansers, promising to bring us joy. There are two categories: contemporary and vintage. Bring your favorites and share.

Our show hotel relationship continues to grow, and we have added three years to our agreement. We are using new communication tools to engage a bigger audience. Your support is essential, and we are working hard to provide great value for our membership.

Please renew your membership and help support our work. It's easy and a great value. Make your plans to attend the show and book your reservations. Bring some good things to share and sell. It helps all of us.

Happy 2024 and Collecting!

Rick

RUSS GOLDBERGER

QUALITY DECOYS & FOLK ART FOR 40+ YEARS

WE NEED YOUR CONSIGNMENTS



LET US WORK FOR YOU

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BEST TERMS

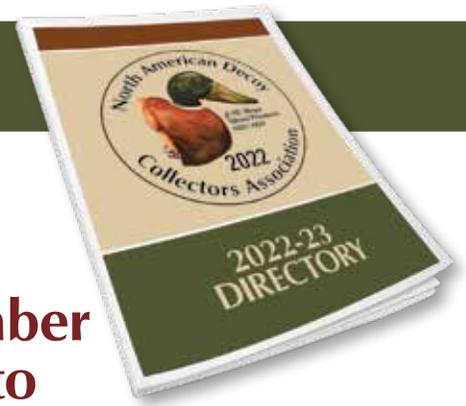
- Lower commissions.
- Fast payment.



SOME CONSIGNMENTS WE SOLD IN 2023

RJGAntiques.com

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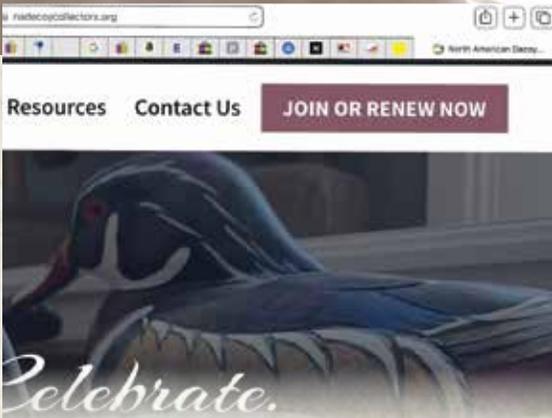
Strong Club Membership Signals Robust Market

Our current membership remains at the pre-COVID highs and is certainly the result of great interest in our hobby and mirrors the overall strength of the collecting market. Our members continue to come from all over North America and collect a broad variety of hunting and fishing items beyond waterfowl decoys. Shell boxes, fish decoys, tackle and lures, ammunition company advertising and pinbacks, powder tins, creels, animal traps, canoe cups and more.

2024 Member Directory to Mail Before Show

The 2024 Member Directory is in the process of being completed and will be mailed before the April show to all members whose dues are current. The directory is a valuable resource that provides detailed contact information, areas of collecting interest, and a city/state listing that makes networking with other members easy. The directory also offers a number of other benefits including listings of dealers, auction houses, collector reference books, and magazines.

Now Pay for Show Tables Online



Based on the number of transactions logged to date, it's clear that our collectors have learned that joining or renewing their memberships on the Club website at nadecoycollectors.org is easy and efficient. Now, you can also register and pay for show tables on the website as well. Just click on the "Join or Renew Now" tab on the home page and scroll down to the table registration area. Pay using a credit card just like any other online transaction and it's easy as that.

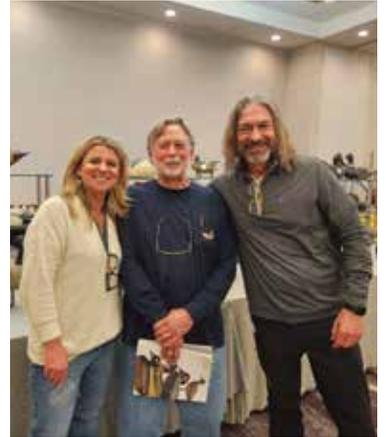


Rick Milligan Collection on Loan to DU

Ohioan Rick Milligan has graciously loaned a select number of outstanding pieces from his game call and duck decoy collection for display at the Ducks Unlimited Waterfowling Heritage Center inside Bass Pro Shops at the Memphis Pyramid. Rick is “so very honored and grateful to have a portion of my collection on display for a year at the Waterfowling Heritage Center in Memphis. A BIG thank you to (NADCA member) Katie Burke of DU for all her help and guidance on the installation.”

If you are anywhere near Memphis in the coming months, be sure to stop by to see this exhibit and all of the other waterfowling artifacts on display.

Members Looking Forward to Lombard Show





COPLEY FINE ART AUCTIONS

Announcing

THE ANDY WILLIAMS
WHITE MALLARD PINCH-BREAST PINTAIL PAIR
The Ward Brothers, c. 1932



Featured in

THE WINTER SALE 2024 | February 23-24

Visit us at

The Eastern Shore Decoy Show, Cape Charles, VA, Feb. 2-3, 2024.
Southeastern Wildlife Exposition (SEWE), Charleston, SC, Feb. 16-18, 2024.
Copley Gallery, Hingham, MA, by appointment through Feb. 9, 2024.

THE TOP CHOICE FOR DISCERNING COLLECTORS

With the **best decoy guarantee** in the field three years running, Copley's **live-streamed auctions** have dominated the top of the decoy market:

- In 2023 Copley sold **7 of the top 10** decoy lots at auction, including the top 7
- In 2022 Copley sold **9 of the top 10** decoy lots at auction
- In 2021 Copley sold **7 of the top 10** decoy lots at auction



- With a combined **130 years of experience**, the Copley decoy team is the most veteran in the field.
- **Specializing in decoys and sporting art**, Copley's management has remained unchanged for over 15 years.
- Copley posts **accurate sales results** so our clients can make educated buying and selling decisions.
- There are **more decoy collectors today than ever before**, and decoys continue to lead the way as our nation's most exciting form of Americana.
- **Contact one of our specialists today** for a free consultation on your individual bird or your entire collection.

Stephen B. O'Brien Jr.
Fine Art & Decoy Specialist
steve@copleyart.com
617.388.0792

Colin S. McNair
Decoy Specialist
colin@copleyart.com
757.999.0078

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



PREVIEW THE WINTER SALE 2024 AT [COPLEYART.COM](https://www.copleyart.com)
COPLEY FINE ART AUCTIONS, LLC | info@copleyart.com | 617.536.0030

Member News



NORTH AMERICAN
Decoy Collectors
ASSOCIATION

2024 Pin Design Celebrates Detroit Factory Decoys

Our 2024 show pin features the iconic Swan made by the J.N. Dodge factory from the last quarter of the 20th century. This famous decoy epitomizes the fine work of the three Detroit decoy factories – Petersen, Dodge and Mason – the subject of this year’s Member Display. Many thanks to long-time member Phil Jones and his obvious artistic talent for creating this wonderful image. These show pins will be available for purchase during the Friday-Saturday show in April.



SPECIAL OFFER:
Join by March 31, 2024
and get a **FREE**
NADCA hat!*



Share Your Collecting Stories

We all agree that the “thrill of the hunt” for that next item to add to our collection is a big part of the enjoyment that comes from collecting. The stories behind those exciting finds are often treasures in themselves, and we’d love to be able to share those experiences with our members in future issues of the Club newsletter. So please send us your favorite stories from your years of collecting. They can be about the pieces you’ve added or about the ones that got away. Please email your stories along with photos to Jeff Seregny at jseregny@gmail.com, or you can mail them to Jeff at: 5 Lenox Lane, Hilton Head, SC 29926.

Are You Getting All of the Club Newsletters?

The Club often uses email to send important information to our members. This includes two of our three newsletters each year. This saves the Club a ton in associated printing and postage costs. So, if your listing in the Member Directory doesn’t include a current email address for you, then we don’t have it and you are missing these newsletters as



well as other club communications. All you need to do is send your email address to Jeff Seregny at jseregny@gmail.com and we’ll add it to your record in our member database.

Not an NADCA Member?

JOIN NOW to Experience All of the Benefits of Membership

- 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): _____

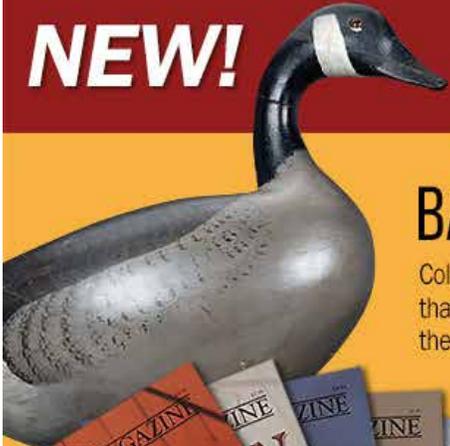


- \$25 Membership Fee (1 year)
- \$70 Membership Fee (3 years)
- \$500 Membership Fee (Lifetime)

Make check payable to: North American Decoy Collectors Association

Mail check to: Matt Bryant
17114 Erskine Street
Omaha, NE 68116

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



NEW! SIX-PACKS

BACK ISSUES BUNDLED BY REGIONAL INTEREST

Collectors and decoy enthusiasts will love our new Six-Packs! Now you can buy bundled back issues that feature articles on decoys and carvers which are specific to your regional interest, at less than the cost of buying each individual issue. Our pre-selected packs include the following categories:

- Delmarva Peninsula
- Delaware River
- New England
- Maine and Maritime
- Factory Decoys
- Southern Decoys
- Upper Chesapeake Bay
- Midwest/Great Lakes
- Susquehanna Flats
- Coastal New Jersey
- Illinois River
- Canadian Decoys

You also have the option of creating your own custom Six-Packs from our list of available back issues. The savings multiply if you buy two or four Six-Packs!

One Six-Pack only \$49.95 TOTAL SAVINGS: \$20 PLUS SHIPPING COSTS!	Two Six-Packs only \$89.95 TOTAL SAVINGS: \$40 PLUS SHIPPING COSTS!	Four Six-Packs only \$149.95 TOTAL SAVINGS: \$80 PLUS SHIPPING COSTS!
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ALL SIX-PACKS ARE SHIPPED FREE OF CHARGE IN THE U.S.!

Get 'em before they fly off the shelves!

SEE ALL AVAILABLE BUNDLES ON WWW.DECOYMAG.COM

Guyette & Deeter, Inc.

Decoy and Sporting Art Auction | April 25 & 26, 2024
The Westin Chicago-Lombard | Lombard Illinois

Featuring the collections of
Alan and Elaine Haid • Jim and Patti Aikin • David Fannon



*The Most
Exceptional
Group of
Rare Decoys to
Ever Be Offered
at Auction*



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full April offering

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Westin Chicago Lombard April 23-27, 2024



The Collecting Experience of the Year

As the largest and longest running decoy and sporting collectible show of its kind, the 57th 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 and 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.

An Ideal 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 of 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 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 at the same time. A TV monitor in the Grand Ballroom will allow Show attendees to stay current on auction progress.

Opportunity Abounds at the Friday-Saturday Event:

- › Club members are invited to a Members Only “Early Bird” session in the Grand Ballroom on Friday at 11:30am prior to the public admission at 1pm. If you are not already a member, this is a great opportunity to join the NADCA, and get the first look at dealer offerings. You can join online at nadecoycollectors.org, or send in the Member Application found on page nine of this newsletter. You can also join at the door.
- › Attendees can enter a drawing to win a \$50 voucher to use toward the purchase of any item at the show. Drawings are held hourly so everyone has a chance to win.
- › Silent Auctions will run continuously during the event. This is a chance for members to move some inventory and to support the club at the same time. It’s also a great opportunity for show goers to snag some special items for their collections.
- › Free Appraisals are offered in the lobby of the Grand Ballroom both days. Think “Antiques Roadshow.” It’s a wonderful 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 your plans now to attend today!

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 directly with the hotel 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, or on the Club website by clicking on the “Join or Renew Now” tab on the home page.



Show Schedule

Tuesday, April 23

All Day – **Room-to-Room trading**

Wednesday, April 24

All Day – **Room-to-Room trading**

9:00am – Seminar: The Haids - A Collecting Journey

3:30pm-5:30pm – Show Registration

4:00pm-7:00pm – Auction Preview Reception

Thursday, April 25

All Day – **Room-to-Room trading**

10:00am – Guyette & Deeter Auction (Day 1)

2:00pm – Evans Collectors Meeting

7:00pm-11:00pm – Call Makers Auction & Party

Friday, April 26

8:00am – Call Makers Meeting & Contest Judging

9:00am-11:30am – Dealer Ballroom Set-Up

10:00am – **Guyette & Deeter Auction** (Day 2)

11:30am-1:00pm – **Members Only “Early Bird” Show**

1:00pm-6:00pm – **Public Grand Ballroom Dealer Event**

- Detroit Decoy Dynasty Display
- Lake Poygan Shooting Box Display
- Josh Brewer Featured Carver Exhibit
- Poitevin, Reynolds, Benz Factory Display
- Carving Demonstrations/Displays
- Continuous Silent Auctions
- Hourly Prize Drawings
- Free Identification and Appraisals

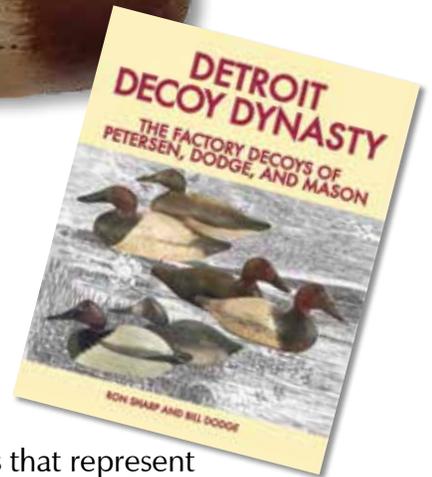
Saturday, April 27

9:00am-2:00pm – **Public Grand Ballroom Dealer Event**

- Member Decoy Contest (Mergansers)
- Displays / Exhibits / Demonstrations
- Silent Auctions / Appraisals Continue



Detroit's Original "Big Three"



This year's Member Display will celebrate Detroit's original "Big Three" decoy makers -- George Petersen, Jasper N. Dodge, and William J. Mason. This pioneering trio of early decoy manufacturers produced thousands of working waterfowl decoys from the late 1800s to the mid-1920s.

The display will feature examples of drake mallard decoys by Petersen, Dodge, and Mason. Attendees will see prime examples of these three decoy makers, side-by-side, highlighting both the similarities and differences in their birds. For many years, there has been a good deal of confusion among the three factories' output. This display will help clarify the distinctive characteristics for each maker.

There will also be decoys that represent the unusual "collaboration" between the Dodge and Mason factories, from the time when both were in operation and cooperated to keep up with seasonal demand, particularly from mass merchants such as Sears and Montgomery Ward catalog businesses.

Board member Bill Dodge is finalizing plans for this unique display. He has been collecting these decoys for over 40 years and is co-author of the reference book, *"Detroit Decoy Dynasty: The Factory Decoys of Petersen, Dodge, and Mason."* This is sure to be a wonderful and educational display, available in the Grand Ballroom on Friday and Saturday.



Educational Seminar:

The Haid's: A Collecting Journey

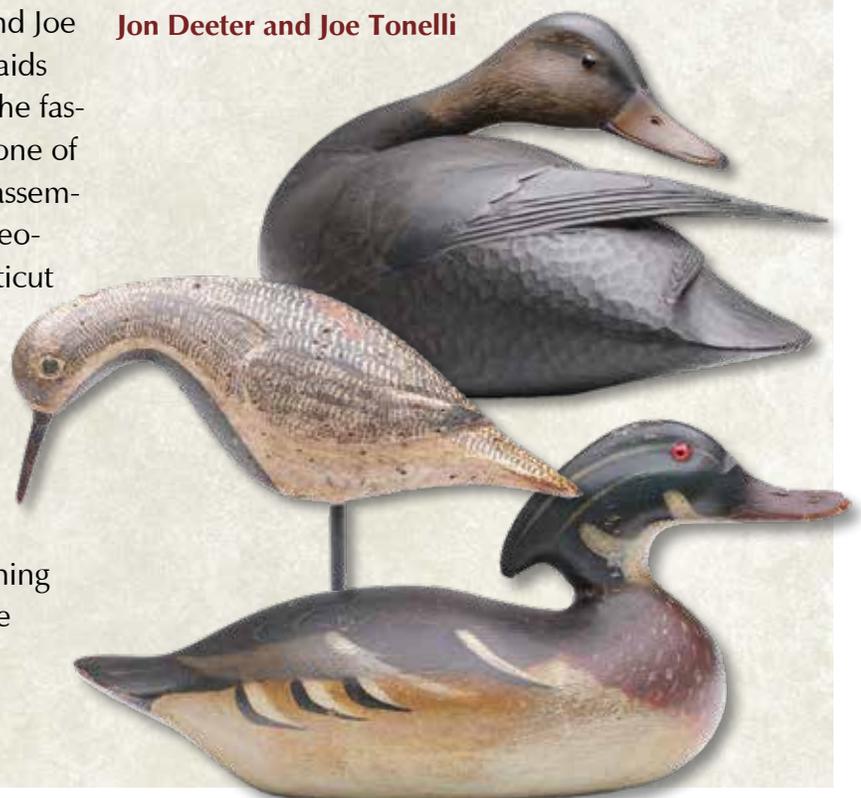
This year's seminar is a very special one. It will tell the story of how Alan and Elaine Haid acquired their iconic collection. The Haid's started their collecting journey together in 1967 and acquired the rarest and finest examples of waterfowl decoys they could find, always working to improve and refine their collection over the decades. As Alan's knowledge and influence grew, he would become a successful dealer and appraiser of decoys and would author 'Decoys of the Mississippi Flyway' in 1981 and co-author 'Mason Decoys – A Complete Pictorial Guide' in 1993. The result of that amount of focus and time spent in one collecting field is a grouping of some of the rarest examples by many of the top artists from America.

Jon Deeter, principal at Guyette & Deeter, and Joe Tonelli, legendary collector and friend of the Haid's since their early days of collecting, will discuss the fascinating path taken by this couple in acquiring one of the finest collections of waterfowl decoys ever assembled. The presentation will feature an early videotaped interview with the Haid's in their Connecticut home discussing key pieces in their collection. Tonelli, who helped the Haid's find a number of pieces over the years, will share great stories of how this savvy couple managed to purchase so many iconic pieces, often on a budget.

This seminar will take place on Wednesday at 9am and promises to be both highly entertaining and informative. The strategies employed by the Haid's will no doubt benefit every collector fortunate enough to attend.



Jon Deeter and Joe Tonelli





Poitevin, Reynolds, Benz Decoys on Display

Members Greg Renner and Pascagoula factory decoy collector Cody Walker will spearhead a fascinating display that demonstrates current thinking surrounding the identification of and differentiation among Poitevin, Reynolds and Benz factory decoys. The display will feature good examples of each factory's output and highlight

their differentiating characteristics. Dubbed "New Understandings and Controversies in Identification of Poitevin, Reynolds and Benz Decoys," this display hopes to be highly interactive, welcoming additional input from show attendees. Be sure to check this display out on Friday and Saturday in the Grand Ballroom.



Wisconsin Gunning Box Display Returns



During the past several years, show attendees have marveled at the ingenuity demonstrated by early Wisconsin hunters of the past. This year attendees at the Friday and Saturday event in the Grand Ballroom will be treated to yet another group of classic Lake Poygan (WI) gunning boxes. These unique, multi-purpose, 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 closely examining these boxes as each one is unique in its design and utility.

Member Decoy Contest

Mergansers Take Center Stage

Each year, we hold a species-specific decoy contest, allowing members to share some of their favorite decoys in their collections. This year's contest will feature Mergansers. "Sawbills," "Fish Ducks," "Hairy Heads" -- whatever you call them, this promises to be an exciting assembly of great examples of Common, Red-Breasted and Hooded Mergansers.

Once again, we will conduct two separate contests — one for vintage Merganser decoys and one for contemporary Mergansers. Members should start planning for which decoys they want to enter – one entry in both the vintage and contemporary categories is allowed. Pairs count as a single entry. This Saturday competition is sure to generate a lot of interest among all show attendees as all contest entries will be on display throughout the day on Saturday in the Grand Ballroom.



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



Weekly Online Auctions at **Bid.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.



*Grady Taylor,
Demoss,
Tennessee.
SOLD! \$3,480*

Guyette & Deeter's growing and trusted online weekly auction platform continues to be the most active decoy and sporting art market place in the world.

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

In 2023, we sold over 3,300 items in our weekly sales, all with guaranteed condition reports and multiple photos.

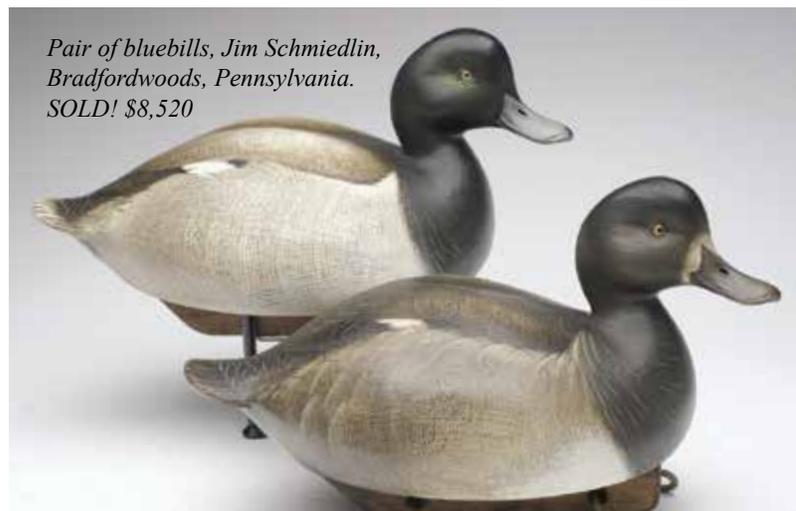
Consign a single item or whole collection!

2024 SUPER SALES

- March
- July
- October
- December



*Pintail hen, Bert Graves, Peoria, Illinois.
SOLD! \$6,720*



*Pair of bluebills, Jim Schmiedlin,
Bradfordwoods, Pennsylvania.
SOLD! \$8,520*



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

CONTEMPORARY CORNER

FEATURED CARVER EXHIBIT:

Josh Brewer

We are thrilled to announce that our featured carver exhibit in the Grand Ballroom will return in 2024 featuring the wonderful work of Josh Brewer of Little Deer Island, Maine. Josh will be bringing a large group of his waterfowl and upland bird carvings to this year's show, including decorative and working decoys, as well as wall hangings, dead mounts, and other selected pieces. We encourage show attendees to visit this exhibit on Friday and Saturday to get to know Josh and his work. This young carver's story is a fascinating one. He started making decoys at a very young age and was carving full-time at 20. After a 12 year hiatus as a physician, he returned to carving full-time in 2022. (For more insight into Josh and his work, see our Member Profile later in this newsletter).



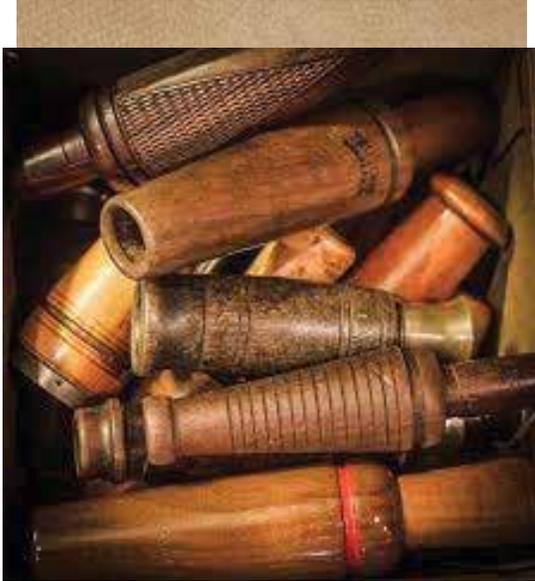
NORTH AMERICAN
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Even More



CONTEMPORARY TALENT ON DISPLAY

Located in a special area of the Grand Ballroom, a number of today's most talented folk artists will showcase their decoy making skills 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.



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 and 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.



Guyette & Deeter Sale To Feature Iconic Collections

The 2024 Guyette & Deeter auction will be a special one indeed as they offer rare selections from the Alan and Elaine Haid collection, widely recognized as one of the finest assemblies of decoys and shorebirds known. In addition, the sale will include offerings from the Dave Fannon collection of waterfowl decoys and Oscar Peterson carvings, as well as the Jim & Patti Aikin collection of classic Ben Schmidt and Michigan decoys.



Interested show goers can get a first look at the sale items at the Preview Reception on Wednesday evening from 4-7pm. The first day of the auction is on Thursday beginning at 10am with more 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 on Friday 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.



Consignments Wanted! Fine Sporting Arms Auctions

Guyette & Deeter



Fabulous Parker
VHE 410 gauge
skeet gun
Sold for \$120,000

Investment quality
Parker VHE Grade
28 gauge
Sold for \$108,000

Extremely rare
Parker BHE 28
gauge
Sold for \$84,000

Fantastic Parker
CHE 12 gauge
Sold for \$39,000

Desirable Parker
Grade 3 20 gauge
hammer gun
Sold for \$39,000

guns@guyetteanddeeter.com

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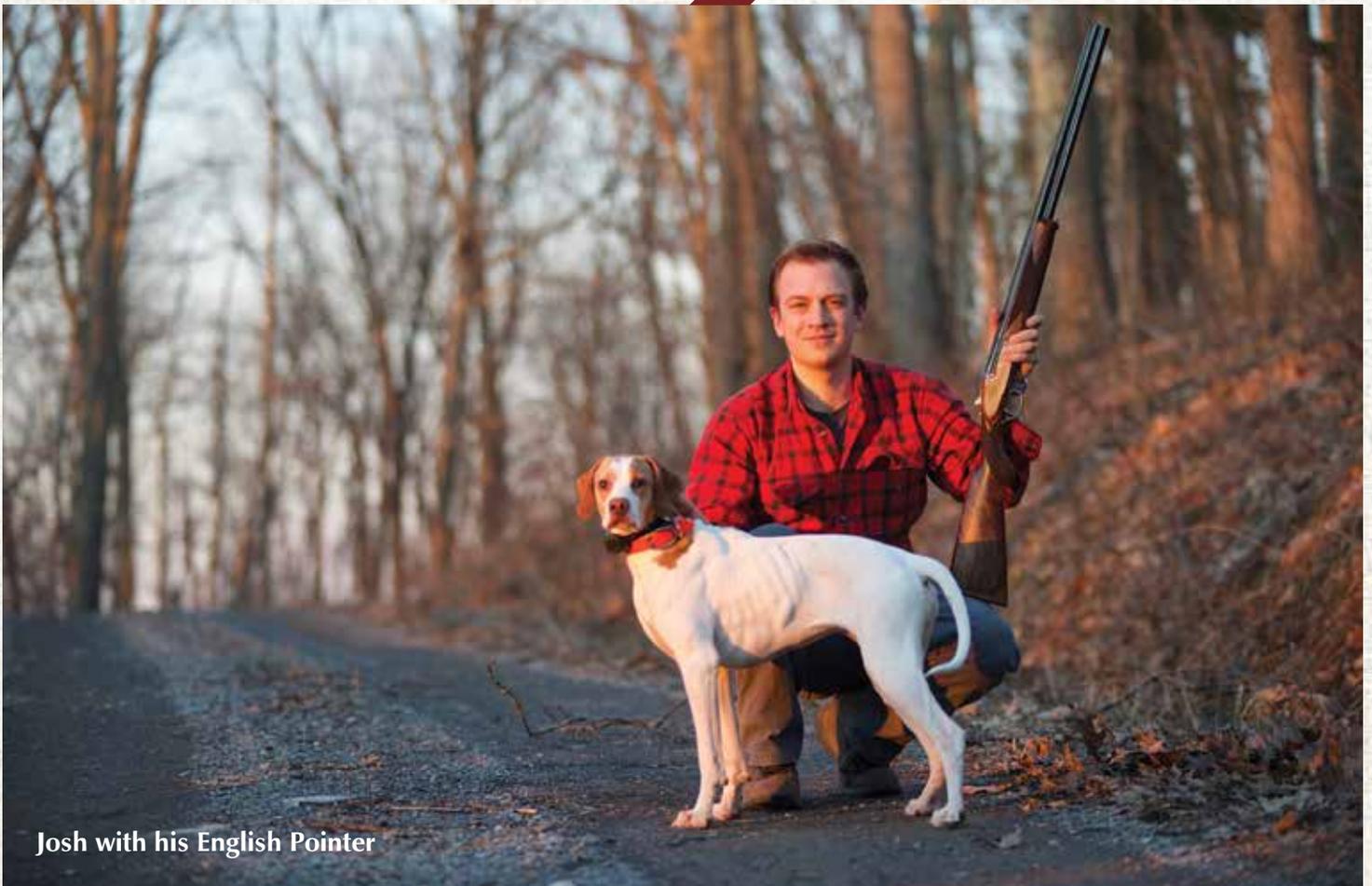
MEMBER PROFILE:

Josh Brewer:

DECOY MAKER RETURNS TO FULL- TIME CARVING



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Josh with his English Pointer

Forty-one year old Josh Brewer may not be the first name that comes to mind just yet when one thinks about today's top contemporary decoy makers.

Then again, none of the others took a break from carving to practice medicine for 10 years in the middle of their carving career. That said, his is a story of passion for the outdoors, love of working with his hands, and a desire to help others.

The Artist

Josh grew up near the Chesapeake Bay and was never far from the fertile hunting grounds where his father taught him to hunt ducks at an early age. In addition to being an avid duck hunter, his father was a wood worker, making reproduction antique furniture and building houses with "old-world" workmanship. Josh relished the



Swan



Sperm Whale

time he would spend with his dad in the shop, and jumped at the opportunity when his father suggested he make a decoy for their next hunt. It was this first ruddy duck, made with his dad's hand tools, that was the inspiration for a life devoted to artistic expression in wood.

Honing His Skills

By his 13th birthday, Josh left many modern pursuits behind, sold his video games and used the proceeds to buy carving knives. He worked tirelessly to develop his carving skills every afternoon, taking advantage of the free time that came from being home-schooled. He is basically a self-taught carver. He firmly believes that learning skills like this as a kid, without the self-pressure or self-doubt that so often comes with adulthood, has been the key to acquiring the great talent he exhibits today.

Early on, Josh had an affinity for old decoys which greatly influenced his future work. He gives much credit to Ward Museum pioneer, curator and conservationist Sam Dyke, who took Josh under his wing and taught him a

great deal about old decoys. In high school he would spend every Friday afternoon at the nearby museum examining and sketching old decoys, striving to understand how they were constructed, carved and painted. Opportunities like this were critical in these early days before the internet was widely available, eventually providing access to any decoy one might want to study. However, despite the instant access to photos today, Josh still insists that examining a bird in hand is the best way to learn since photos don't reveal the subtleties of carving and painting techniques used by the past masters. In particular, Josh believes that carving skills can be developed relatively fast,

while learning to paint is often a much slower process. By relentlessly studying the old masters, he was able to develop and expand his abilities as an oil painter in his teens.

Josh is quick to point to a number of others who influenced his work along the way. These include local carvers and decoy makers – Grayson Chesser, Bobby Swain, Rich Smoker, Arthur Leonard, Oliver Lawson and more. He also credits the work of carvers who had gone before, seen through reference books by the likes of Henry Fleckenstein, Joe Engers, and Dr. George Ross Starr and others. Josh jokes that his copy of Engers' book, "The Great Book of Wildfowl Decoys,"



Humpback Pintail

has so many wood chips and paint splatters in it that the pages barely turn any more. Indeed, he feels a great debt to the writers, collectors and historians who document the decoy through history.

With the help and influence of these men and more, Josh was carving full-time and exhibiting at shows around the country by the time he graduated from high school at just 17 years old.

A Life Transition

Josh graduated from college as a pre-med student by the time he turned 20. While he had planned to pursue a career in medicine after college, the pull of his first love was too powerful. With a couple year's worth of back orders in hand, he decided to rededicate his life to carving full time. He did so successfully until 2011. The economic downturn and the responsibilities of his upcoming marriage caused Josh to reconsider a career in medicine, his other lifelong interest. Beginning with medical school in West Virginia, this new journey led him to practice family medicine, first on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Tangier Island in Chesapeake, and later on the Blue Hill Peninsula in Maine. During this time, he would subjugate carving to focus on a growing family and his new profession, serving those in need.

However, after practicing medicine for over 12 years, Josh once again felt the tug of artistic endeavors that had been so central to his life from an early age. Life in Maine provided him with new sources of inspiration and reconnected him with a rich tradition of craftsmanship and art. In 2022, Josh decided to leave medicine and return



Common Loons



Gunning Pintail



Canvasback Wing Duck



Wood Duck and Preening Pintail



Vintage tool collection



A selection of pieces from Josh's vintage and contemporary collection



Standing Woodcock



Mourning Dove Dead Mount

to carving full-time, fueled by a desire to spend more time with his wife, instill traditional values in his two young sons, and the joy of working with his hands.

The Work

Josh describes his work as a blending of his love of history, old decoys and waterfowling. Specifically, he says that he sees his birds as an amalgam of realism and traditional craftsmanship by employing the same techniques used by the early masters. His early work focused on waterfowl decoys. However, after being introduced to, and falling in love with hunting upland birds, Josh's work expanded to include woodcock, quail, grouse and

pheasants. As Josh puts it, "The opportunity to observe these birds in their natural environment and study the specimens greatly enhanced my work." In all of this work, Josh has always remained enamored with the traditional decoy as true folk art rooted in function.

Today, Josh's talent is expressed through duck decoys, wall hangings, miniatures, and a variety of other bird carvings. Throughout his carving career, he has sought inspiration in the work of early artists. All of his work reflects the years of studying the work of early decoy makers and artists from the east. His decorative and gunning birds are made using traditional

hand-carving techniques. His early flyers were inspired by the work of the Ward Brothers, Elmer Crowell, and Chauncey Wheeler. And his dead mount carvings clearly owe their form to the art of early painter Alexander Pope.

Josh credits his time as a doctor with having a significant impact on his most recent work. He believes his current work is more nuanced and detailed which he attributes to the precision required in the medical profession. The first piece he made after returning to full-time carving was a ring-neck pheasant flyer which he views as being significantly more refined in both paint and form.

Another post-medicine piece of which he is particularly proud is a hanging Osprey that challenged him at every phase. The sketch did not come easy, with multiple attempts to capture his vision for the carving. Ultimately, the com-

position came to life on a paper napkin reflecting precisely what he had in his mind. This critical step resulted in a carving exactly what he had intended.

Shortly thereafter, at the urging of his father, he made an impressive preening pintail in advance of the 2022 North American Decoy & Sporting Collectors Show. He keeps it as a constant reminder of his dad, who passed shortly before the show.

The Collector

Josh is clearly a man of many interests. In addition to his carving life, his deep appreciation of traditional craftsmanship has also led him to collect works of early makers as well. His first collecting experience came at an early age when he acquired a small rig of old cork black ducks used by the father of a local hunter in Vienna, Maryland. Shortly thereafter he

got very excited about this group when he discovered that they were pictured in Henry Fleckenstein's book, "Decoys of the Mid-Atlantic Region."

He describes his interest in old decoys as relatively eclectic, collecting items of interest that he is drawn to as a maker and artist. Form and essence of the species as well as craftsmanship in the details interest him most. His waterfowl collection includes a broad range of pieces including hollow black ducks from the Mid Atlantic, a Ward Brothers preening black duck, and, in particular, a Gus Wilson Scoter. As a decoy maker he says that he appreciates the complex sculptural form of Wilson's work. Other birds in his collection include a mixture of carvings by unknown and well-known makers. Among these are a pair of mallards by Tuts Lawson, a beautiful Chesapeake Bay swan,



Flying Pheasant



Wigeon



Miniature Black-Bellied Plover



Ruddy Ducks

and turtleback scoters and eiders from the Maritimes. He also has a number of miniatures by Rhode Island's A.J. King and Robert Morse of Maine.

In addition to decoys, Josh also collects etchings and old tools. His artwork includes illustrations of pintails, black ducks and shorebirds, dove, quail and woodcock by early artists Frank Benson and

Isabel Bishop, as well as modern etching master Brett James Smith. His tool collecting is as much a practical pursuit as it is admiration for the skilled craftsman of old. He clearly takes great joy in using many of the planes, English gouges, spokeshaves and drawknives he has acquired, and sees their continued relevance imprinted in his daily work.

Looking Ahead

As Josh reflects on collecting and his own carving, he expresses it this way, "What attracts me to any piece is not just form, but the form and shape of paint patterns and how they mix with the sculpture. Add 'surface' and it's what I strive for in both creating and collecting." Josh adds, "I love the idea that sooner or later these new creations will be antiques in their own right, and I hope to make them in a way that weathers the arc of time with the ability to still inspire the viewer."

You can reach Josh at josh@joshbrewer.com. You can see more of his work on his website at joshbrewer.com.

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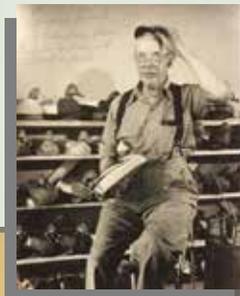
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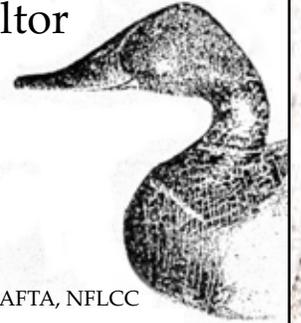
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Reserve Your Tables Today!

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, 2024. (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. **NOTE: You can now also register and pay for your tables online at nadecoycollectors.org. Just click on the "Join or Renew Now" tab on the home page and scroll down to the table registration area.**

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

- \$75 per table for reservations and payment by March 15, 2024
- \$100 per table for reservation and payment after March 15, 2024

Early Grand Ballroom Set-Up Time!

Set-up time in the Grand Ballroom of The Westin will start on Friday morning at 9am. The doors will be open at 11:30am 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.

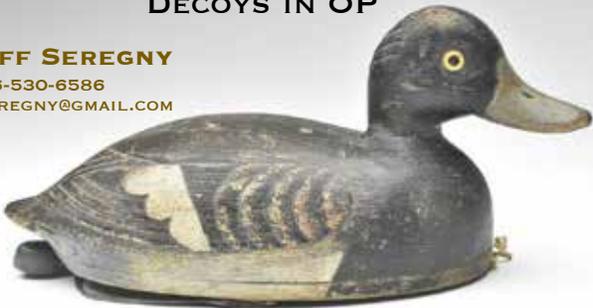
A name badge will be provided for all exhibitors, available at the Show Registration Desk beginning on Wednesday afternoon. Please wear this badge in the Grand Ballroom at all times.

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

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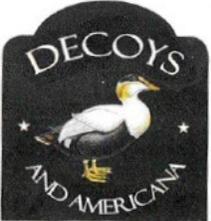


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PLEASE NOTE: All exhibitors must be NADCA members in good standing. If not already paid for the year of the show, you can pay your annual dues online at nadecoycollectors.org or by including your dues along with your table payment. **If someone is 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.

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_____ # of Table(s) @ \$75 each (\$100 each if after March 15) \$ _____

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