




NORTH AMERICAN
Decoy Collectors
ASSOCIATION
Winter 2025 Newsletter

You're Invited to the Collecting Experience of the Year!

It's the 58th North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show April 22-26, 2025

Westin Chicago Lombard, Lombard, IL

For anyone who has an interest in decoys or other sporting collectibles, the North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show is a "must attend." This year's show promises to be one of the best ever with countless opportunities to learn, network with other like-minded folks, and add a piece or two to your collection.

Sponsored by the North American Decoy Collectors Association (NADCA), our plan for our 58th annual show begins with room-to-room trading, features a Guyette & Deeter auction, and concludes with a 2-day tabled dealer event in the hotel's Grand Ballroom. The event also includes a fascinating seminar, a variety of decoy and other sporting displays, carving demonstrations, silent auctions, free appraisals and much more. It will all take place at the Westin Chicago Lombard hotel in Lombard, Illinois, April 22-26, 2025.

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 NADCA, the largest club of its kind, please consider joining today. You'll receive more club newsletters like this, a member directory, networking opportunities, and free entry to the annual show. Plus, if you join by March 31, you'll receive a FREE club hat (see details inside)!

Here's What's Inside:

NADCA Member News.....	Page 4
New Member Application	Page 7
2025 Show Preview/Schedule	Page 10
Member Profile	Page 22
Show Table Registration Form	Page 31

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

I appreciate all of your support and well wishes.

This is a magnificent

time to be a decoy collector. We are seeing the results of decades of collecting by many dedicated collectors as many great items are becoming available for sale. Favorites have been tucked away in cabins, basements, and other hideaways. Some have been in reserved status for more than 50 years. The Harmon Collection is just one example of this phenomenon. No one, including Ted and Judy, had ever seen so much of their collection on display in one place until recent exhibit at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.

This is just one example of the exciting environment that decoy collectors will experience over the next decade as these incredible artifacts emerge to find new homes. Each month we are seeing more and more possibilities as information becomes available on different collections nationwide.

The Center for American Decoys at the Peoria Riverfront Museum as well as the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum are doing great work to

display and document the history of the decoy. Please look at their online sites and consider supporting their critical educational efforts.

The content and plan for our show in April are exceptional, perhaps the best we have ever produced. You should make every effort to attend. Some highlights include exhibits by talented creators of decoy and sporting art, and you will get to network with an enthusiastic group of attendees.

Our club continues to grow, and our careful financial plan puts us in a strong position for the future. If you haven't done so already, please renew your membership, and use the booking link on the club website to lock down your hotel stay. Booking through the link helps us build credit which is used to offset the cost of the Grand Ballroom and other hotel facilities that we need to put on the show.

There are many shows around the country, and we need to support them as they help build more collecting energy.

See you all very soon! Happy Collecting!

Rick

AMERICAN SPORTING AUCTIONS

Regardless of value, let us work for you

Fair Rates | Multiple Bidding Platforms | Fast Payouts

Visit us in room 333 at the North American Decoy Collectors Show!



We understand that every piece in your collection tells a story and holds value. Whether you're consigning a single piece or an entire collection, we approach each consignment with care. Ensuring that every item — *regardless of its individual value* — is showcased to its fullest potential.



Scan here
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SOLD!
Jim Schmiedlin
\$4,320



SOLD!
Spencer Tinkham
\$5,040



SOLD!
Josh Brewer
\$2,640

We want your consignments!



SOLD!
Pete Peterson
\$3,000



SOLD!
Cameron McIntyre
\$3,960



SOLD!
St. Clair Flats Cans
\$4,320

AmericanSportingAuctions.com
P.O. Box 15623 Syracuse, NY 13215

Mike Martin | 315-576-6058
AmericanSportingAuctions@gmail.com

Member News



NADCA Membership Is Thriving

The NADCA remains the largest decoy and sporting collectibles organization anywhere and it keeps growing. Since our 2024 show, we've added 60 new members, signaling great interest in our hobby. Our current membership is approaching 750 strong. Our members come from all over North America and collect a broad variety of hunting and fishing items. In addition to waterfowl and shorebird decoys, our members collect a broad range of items related to the outdoors including animal traps, shell boxes, fishing tackle and lures, canoe cups, ammunition company advertising and pinbacks, powder tins, folk art, and more. Be sure to encourage your collecting friends to join us. It will certainly enhance their enjoyment of our hobby.

Katie Burke Hosts members in DU Podcast Series



Board member Katie Burke, Curator of the Ducks Unlimited Waterfowling Heritage Center in Memphis, Tennessee, has been hosting a continuing series of podcasts during which she explores a variety of topics including decoy and call collecting, duck hunting, decoy making, and wildlife art.

This ongoing series has featured a number of our members including Board member and Illinois River decoy collector Dave Kneebone, Louisiana collector Bruce Lowe, and Joe and Donna Tonelli.

These far-ranging interviews are fascinating looks at how and why these folks became so passionate about their particular areas of interest and are really worth a listen. Check them out online at: dudpodcast.transistor.fm/people/katie-burke.

Club Facebook Group Now Open to All Collectors



Having started as a "Members Only" group, the club now welcomes ALL collectors to join the "North American Decoy Collectors Association" group on Facebook. The group continues to be a place where

collectors can get help with identification from our regional experts, share photos of new acquisitions, and even buy/sell/trade with other enthusiasts. Collectors are encouraged to go to our Facebook group to request access. Once approved, they'll be able to connect with hundreds other folks who are so passionate about our hobby.





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Decoy and Sporting Art Auction April 24 & 25, 2025

Celebrating 40 years in partnership with the NADCA!

Featuring Session I of the Ted and Judy Harmon Collection

and the collections of

Peter & Diana Bennett, Len Carnaghi, Dave Fannon, Gene & Linda Kangas,
Tom Karras, Al Marzorini, Mike & Ginger Raffia, and Don Snyder

*Preening black duck
by Elmer Crowell*



*Outstanding wood duck by
Elmer Crowell.
Made for Dr. John
Cunningham*



*Running yellowlegs
from the Dr. John C.
Phillips rig*

*Early carved
wing sandpiper
by Elmer Crowell*



*Tiny sleeping peep
by Melvin Gardner
Lawrence*



*One of only a few
known Canada
goose decoys by
Charles Perdue*



*The only known red-
breasted merganser by
William J. Mason,
circa 1885*



*Very rare, challenge
grade, green wing teal
by the Mason Factory*



*Stellar pintail drake by the
Ward Brothers, circa 1932*



*The only known pair of wood ducks by
William J. Mason, circa 1885*



*Early and outstanding
blue wing teal by William
J. Mason, circa 1885*



*Pair of American
mergamers by the
Mason Factory*



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Member News



Phil Jones Designs 2025 Show Pin



Our 2025 show pin features an illustration of a wood duck made by Joe Lincoln of Accord Village, Hingham, MA, ca. 1930s. The decoy represented by in this image is a key piece in the collection of Ted and Judy Harmon, the first installment of which will be dispersed in the Guyette & Deeter auction at our

2025 event. Once again, we thank member Phil Jones for lending his artistic talent to create this image. These show pins will be available for purchase at the registration desk on Wednesday before the Auction Preview and on Friday and Saturday outside the Grand Ballroom.



Greg Renner to Host Educational Event

On March 1, member Greg Renner will host his 6th annual Missouri Decoy Collectors Program in Jefferson City, MO. This event is focused on fostering study and education about decoys from Missouri and surrounding states. Program segments will include presentations on carvers from eastern Missouri, western Illinois, and southeastern Iowa, in addition to a discussion of Jefferson City factory decoys. There will also be a presentation on Missouri duck call makers. The educational session will be preceded by a short buy, sell,



swap session. Collectors interested in attending should contact Greg Renner for details right away at gregrenner51@gmail.com or text 573-808-6103.

SPECIAL OFFER:
Join by March 31, 2025
and get a FREE NADCA hat!*



Member Directory Update Coming

Our Member Directory has long been a valuable and handy reference tool used by our members to network with other collectors and access valuable collecting information. To ensure that our members have the latest membership information, we will produce an update to 2024-25 Directory and mail it to all members who are current with their dues. This addendum will list all new members who have joined since February, 2024 as

well as any changes to listings we've received from current members. We'll be printing this update very soon so please send any updates to have to jseregny@gmail.com right away.



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
- Participation in our 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.**

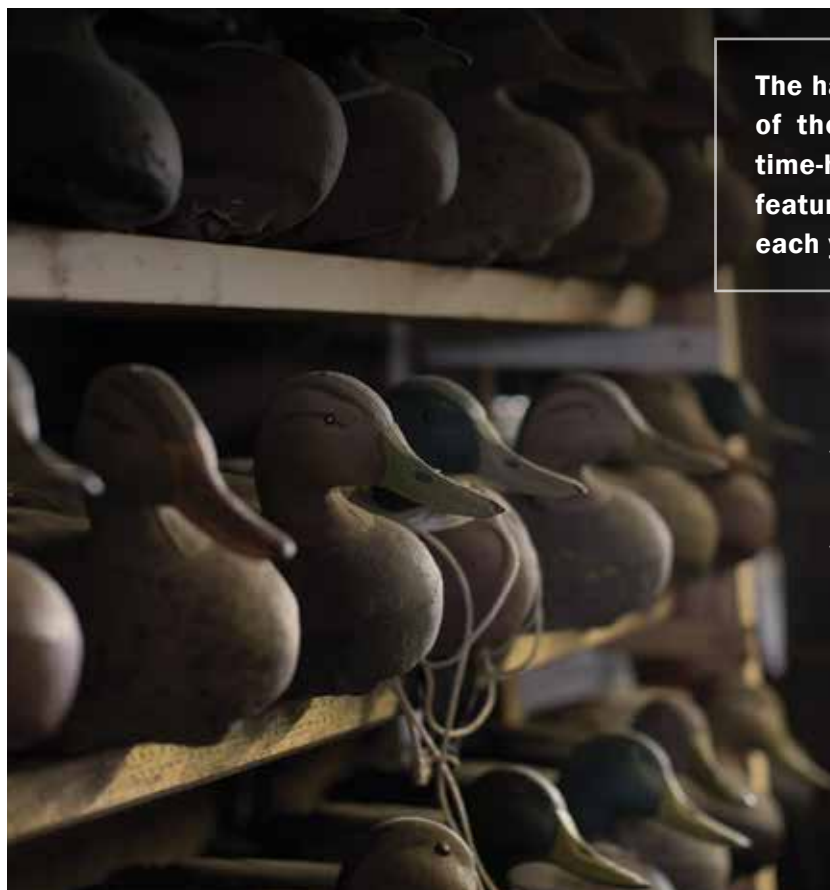


NORTH AMERICAN
Decoy Collectors
ASSOCIATION

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

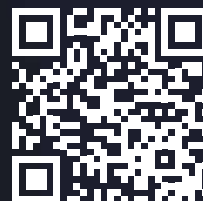
Make check payable to: North American
Decoy Collectors Association

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



The hand-carved decoy symbolizes the rich history of the sport of duck hunting. To continue this time-honored tradition, Delta Waterfowl hosts and features a hand-carved decoy hunt in the magazine each year.

Delta Waterfowl has played an instrumental role in waterfowl conservation for over a century in so many other ways outside of this hand-carved decoy hunt. We invite you to learn more how Delta impacts ducks and duck hunters throughout North America.



deltawaterfowl.org



or by reaching out to:

TODD BURNS
tburns@deltawaterfowl.org
815-953-1049



SELLING THE FINEST DECOYS



The Sorenson-Figge American Merganser Pair by Charles Schoenheider Sr. (1854-1944), Peoria, IL, c. 1910, sold for \$270,000.

Accepting Consignments for
THE SPORTING SALE 2025

THE TOP CHOICE FOR DISCERNING COLLECTORS

Since 2009, Copley has placed more decoy lots on the “100 All-Time High Prices” list than all of the other auction firms combined. With the **best decoy guarantee** in the field four years running, Copley’s 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.
- 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.

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617.388.0792

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Decoy Specialist
colin@copleyart.com
757.999.0078

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



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

Westin Chicago Lombard April 22-26, 2025



There's Something for Everyone

As the largest and longest running decoy and sporting collectible show of its kind, the 58th North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show will once again offer something for everybody with room-to-room trading, a Guyette & Deeter premier auction, and a 2-day exhibit hall dealer sales event. For many who attend, this is their opportunity to rekindle old friendships and take advantage of the many 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.

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 Fri. – Sat. Grand Ballroom dealer event one of two ways:

- Complete and mail in the "Table Reservation Form" in the back of this newsletter.
- Click on the "Join or Renew Now" tab on the club's website home page.



Show Schedule

Tuesday, April 22

All Day – Room-to-Room Trading

Wednesday, April 23

All Day – Room-to-Room Trading

3:00pm-4:00pm – Seminar: A 60-Year Collecting Journey: Harmon Collection

4:00pm-5:00pm – Show Registration

5:00pm-7:00pm – Auction Preview Reception

Thursday, April 24

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 25

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

- Evans Factory Black Duck Display
- Lake Poygan Shooting Box Display
- Russell Owen: Featured Carver Exhibit
- Adam Grimm: Featured Artist Exhibit
- Carving Demonstrations/Displays
- Continuous Silent Auctions
- Hourly \$50 Show Voucher Drawings
- Free Identification and Appraisals

Saturday, April 26

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

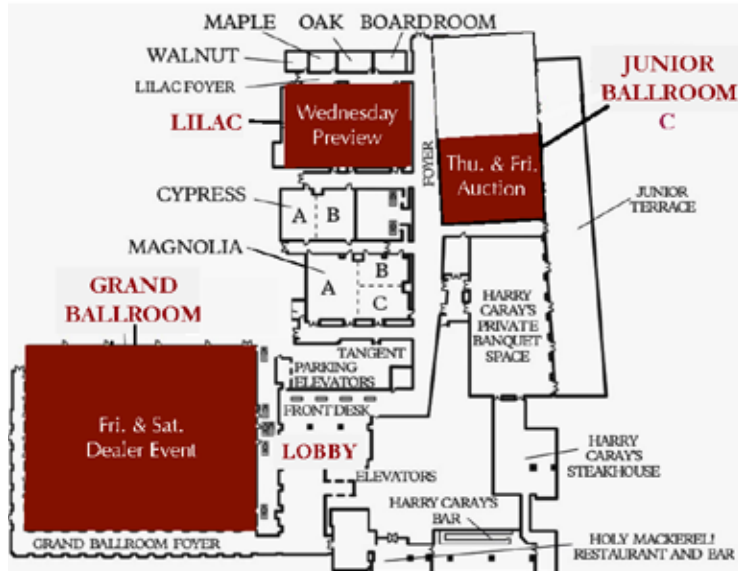
- Member Decoy Contest (Black Ducks)
- Displays / Exhibits / Demonstrations
- Silent Auctions / Appraisals / Drawings Continue



The Location Has It All

The Show will take place at the Westin Chicago Lombard hotel in Lombard, Illinois. 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 range 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.



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.



DECOY MAGAZINE

Celebrating America's finest folk art

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

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In the U.S.: \$45 year ♦ \$80 for 2 years | In Canada: \$60 year ♦ \$110 for 2 years

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Gus Wilson
lifed-wing painting black duck

P.O. Box 787 ♦ Lewes, DE 19958
(302) 644-9001 ♦ decoymag@aol.com

Visit us on the web at decoymag.com



Room-to-Room Trading: Tuesday – Thursday



The first part of the show offers attendees a wonderful opportunity to discover countless decoys and other sporting collectibles in a casual, relaxed atmosphere that encourages learning, selling, and buying. If you haven't experienced a room-to-room event before, you're in for a real treat. Our dealers will occupy rooms on five floors of the Westin Lombard hotel and be open for collectors roaming the hallways looking for that next "must have" item for their collections. If you are looking for something specific, odds are that you'll find it here among the estimated 30,000 available items.



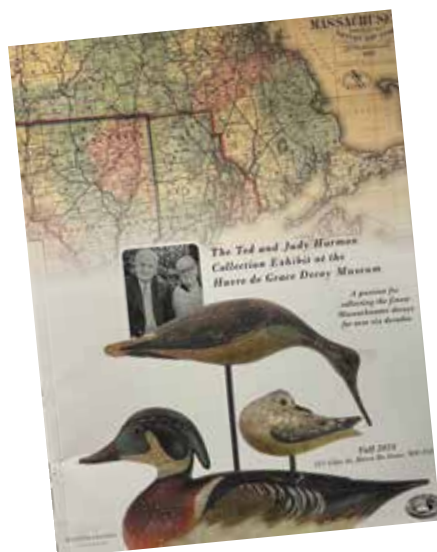
Room-to-Room trading generally runs from 10am in the morning until 9pm at night and gives collectors the chance to interact with our dealer members in an environment that is friendly and inviting. Whether you're a seasoned collector or new to the hobby, you'll find our members to be extremely knowledgeable and more than willing to share that knowledge and help guide your collecting journey. Come join us, walk around, and sit and "talk decoys." It's great fun!

Educational Seminar: Wednesday

A 60-Year Collecting Journey: The Harmon Collection

Led by moderator Katie Burke, our seminar this year will tell the story of how the iconic Harmon collection of Massachusetts waterfowl and shorebird decoys came to be. Judy Harmon and family members will discuss the fascinating journey that helped Ted and Judy create the finest collection of Massachusetts decoys ever assembled. Elmer Crowell, Lothrop Holmes, Keyes Chadwick, Capt. Clarence Bailey, Joe Lincoln, Luther Nickerson are just a few of the virtual "who's-who" of makers who will be celebrated during this once in a lifetime seminar. Be sure to come early as this is sure to be an extremely popular event. It starts at 3:00pm on Wednesday afternoon.

**For much more on the Harmon Collection
check out the Member Profile starting on page 22.**



COMING AUGUST 2025 TO THE DUCKS UNLIMITED
WATERFOWLING HERITAGE CENTER

THE CANADA GOOSE

ETCHED IN TIME,
CARVED IN WOOD

DECOYS FROM THE
PETERSON COLLECTION



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CHICAGO SHOW
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Pigeon



Mason Premier
Mallard Pair



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Guyette & Deeter Auction: Wednesday (Preview); Thursday-Friday



Guyette & Deeter will continue the momentum established at last year's show by offering another iconic collection in 2025. The sale will feature the first installment of the Ted and Judy Harmon collection of outstanding Massachusetts waterfowl and shorebird decoys, many of which were recently on display at the Havre de Grace Museum. The G&D auction will also include a group of early hand-made and Challenge grade Mason and shorebird decoys from the collection of Pete Bennett, a group of rare items from the Don Snyder collection, a selection of unique carvings by John Tax, as well as a variety of Michigan decoys from the collection of Len Carnaghi.

Interested showgoers can get a first look at the sale items at the Preview Reception on Wednesday evening from 5-7pm. On both Thursday and Friday, the auction will begin at 10am with more previewing available both days beginning at 8am. There will be a television monitor on hand in the Grand Ballroom on Friday so that all bidders can keep tabs on the auction progress.

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





guyette & deeter

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PARKER BHE GRADE 28 GA.
SOLD \$126,000



PARKER VHE 410 GA.
SOLD \$120,000!



L.C. SMITH A-3 GRADE 12 GA.
SOLD \$36,000!



Patek Philippe
Gents rose gold
annual calendar
wrist watch.
Sold! \$54,000



Oil on canvas, Lynn Bogue Hunt.
Sold! \$45,000



PAIR 32 BORE W.W. GREENER.
SOLD \$87,000!



ABBIATICO & SALVINELLI
JOREMA 28 GAUGE.
SOLD \$48,000!

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for inquiries.



Grand Ballroom Dealer Event: Friday-Saturday



The final segment of our show takes place in the hotel's Grand Ballroom where nearly 300 tables are covered with every kind of sporting collectibles imaginable available for sale. Some of the vendors occupied rooms earlier in the week while others are new with fresh inventory. If you can't find what you're looking for here, you probably can't find it anywhere.



At the same time, there's so much more to experience during this 2-day event. A number of decoy and other sporting collectible displays will be on hand allowing attendees to learn the history of some rare sporting artifacts. There will also be special exhibits by our featured wildlife carver and artist for all to enjoy.

Some other exciting activities of note are:

- › Free Appraisals are offered in the lobby of the Grand Ballroom both days. 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. Yours could be one, too!



- › 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 mail in the Member Application found on page 7 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 2-day event. This is a chance for members to move some inventory and to support the club at the same time. And collectors can likely snag some special items for their collections.

Sporting Collectibles on Display

Each year, the Friday and Saturday Ballroom event offers attendees an opportunity to learn about a variety of rarely seen collectibles. In the past, attendees have enjoyed displays of rare waterfowl and fish decoys, powder tins, shot shell boxes and related items, animal traps and more. This year we are pleased to continue this tradition with two different displays.



Rare Evans Factory Black Ducks

Member John Munson is coordinating a display of rare black ducks made by the Evans Decoy Company. Walter Evans began the Evans Decoy Company in Ladysmith, WI in 1921. He ran a very vibrant business until illness caused him to cease operations in 1932. He offered decoys in three grades: Mammoth, Standard and Competitive. The Competitive model had a rough finish, while the other two versions were sanded smooth and painted with more detail. Evans offered both solid and hollow versions of the Mammoth and Standard decoys.

This display will illustrate these variations using only black ducks, thus eliminating the complexity of paint and other variations from species to species. This promises to be a revealing, close-up examination of these hard to find Evans factory birds. Munson and other Evans collectors will be on hand to answer questions throughout the two-day event. Be sure not to miss this opportunity to examine and learn about these rare decoys.



Lake Poygan Gunning Boxes

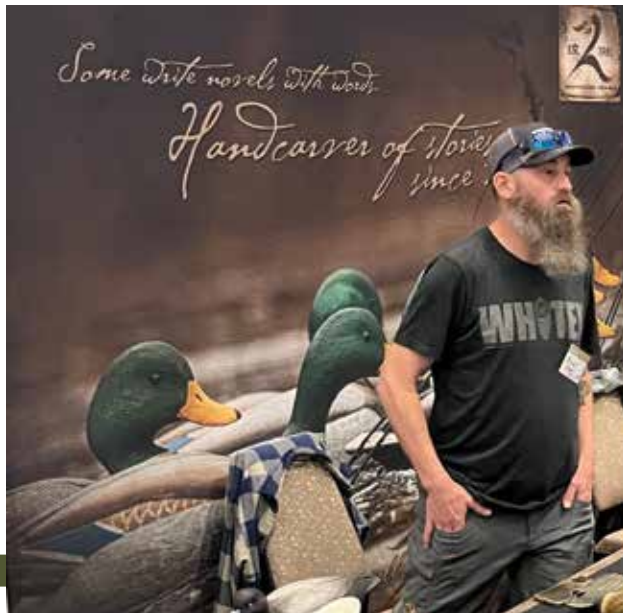
With no shortage of fascinating examples, this year attendees will be able to view another group of classic Lake Poygan, Wisconsin gunning boxes. These unique, multi-purpose wooden "totes" were tools of the Wisconsin hunting trade that allowed these early waterfowlers to more easily transport and organize everything they needed for a successful hunt. These boxes represent the epitome of creativity in their design as they often provided a convenient cradle for a shotgun, as well as multiple cubbies for housing all sorts of hunting paraphernalia. Thanks to member Joe LeRoy for making this display happen. Attendees are encouraged to spend some time closely examining these boxes as each one is unique in its design and utility.

CONTEMPORARY CORNER

FEATURED CARVER EXHIBIT:

Russell Owen

We are excited to celebrate our 2025 featured carver, Russel Owen of Denmark, South Carolina. Russell is a self-taught decoy maker who uses traditional carving techniques and hand tools to create what he refers today as "heirloom-quality gunning rigs." As a young, waterfowl-obsessed boy, Owen carved crude decoys and trained himself on Styrofoam blocks he picked up at the local Tractor Supply store. Later in life, his 14 seasons guiding trout, salmon and sea ducks in Alaska cultivated an admiration for not only the natural world, but also the slow process of observation. He brings those experiences to producing fewer than 100 carvings per year, each one exhibiting the detail and soul that make them unique. We encourage show attendees come to get to know Russell and his outstanding work.



DECOY MAKING DEMONSTRATIONS AND MORE

In addition to the featured carver exhibit, a number of other of today's most talented folk artists will also be showcasing their decoy making skills in the dedicated Contemporary Corner. In addition to offering their work for sale, several of these accomplished makers will demonstrate their carving and painting techniques. These popular demonstrations represent a great learning opportunity for fledgling decoy makers and anyone with an interest in understanding how working decoys are made.



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Weekly Online Auctions at **Bid.guyetteanddeeter.com**

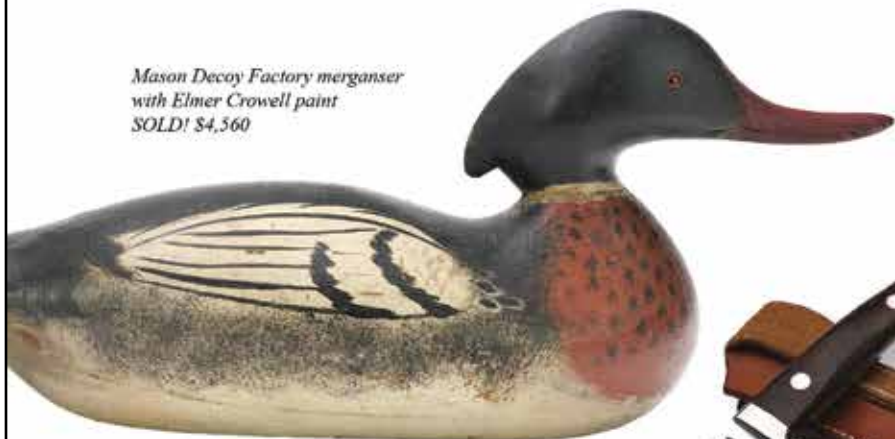
Weekly Online Auctions Ending Every Thursday Night at 7pm est

Guaranteed condition reports, multiple photos, quick shipping and quality items. Bid with confidence.

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.

*Mason Decoy Factory merganser with Elmer Crowell paint
SOLD! \$4,560*



*"The Eastern Shoreman" goose call, Sean Mann, Trappe, Maryland.
SOLD! \$7,920*



*R.W. Loveless,
Riverside, California
SOLD! \$3,960*



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Featured Artist Exhibit

Adam Grimm Returns

Adam Grimm is an internationally known wildlife artist who rose to prominence in 1999 when, at the age of twenty-one, he became the youngest person ever to win the Federal Duck Stamp Competition. Adam used his record setting victory as a stepping-stone to a highly successful wildlife art career, featuring many other notable achievements, including his second Federal Duck Stamp title for 2014-2015. Remarkably, he achieved the "three-peat" in 2024 by winning once again with his beautiful painting of a pair of spectacled eiders entitled "Arctic Watch."

This is a return visit for Adam, as he was our featured artist in 2024, along with his daughter Madison, who clearly has inherited her father's talent. She was youngest winner ever of the Junior Federal Duck Stamp competition when she won the prize at the age of just six years old. Their work was of such interest that Adam has agreed to share his talent with us again in 2025. Be sure to find Adam's beautiful work at the show. You'll be glad you did.



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Member “Favorite” Decoy Contest: Saturday



Callmakers Club Gathers in Lombard Again

The Callmakers and Collectors Association of America (CCAA) will once again hold their annual meeting at our show. On Thursday evening, the group conducts a Fancy Call Contest followed by a Pizza Party and Custom Call Auction. On Friday and Saturday, the Fancy Call contest entries and results will be on display in the Grand Ballroom for all to enjoy, and many members will offer their calls for sale. This is a great opportunity to see the fine work by these talented craftsmen and to pick up a call for the collection.

Calling all Black Ducks to Lombard



On Saturday, the NADCA will hold its annual member “Favorite” Decoy Contest. Members will bring decoys to compete for the coveted “Best of Show” award. This year’s contest will feature black ducks.

As always, there will be two separate contests — one for vintage black duck decoys (made for hunting prior to 1960), and one for contemporary black ducks (made in 1961 or later).

Members should start now planning for which decoys they want to enter – an entry in both categories is encouraged. 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.



MEMBER PROFILE:

Ted & Judy Harmon:



NORTH AMERICAN
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60 YEARS OF PASSION ON THE CAPE



How It All Began

Ted and Judy's son Steven recently wrote about the life experiences that were the foundation for his dad's life around decoys: "It's hard to say exactly when my father's journey into the decoy collecting world really began." Was it Ted's early visit to Elmer Crowell's workshop with his kindergarten class to watch him make miniatures? Or was it when Ted's father decided to move the family to Cape Cod when Ted was just a young boy, which "laid the foundation for his love of the outdoors, and ultimately his appreciation for the art of the decoy?"

The collecting story of Ted and Judy Harmon of Barnstable, MA on Cape Cod is one of passion, hard work, discovery, luck, and extraordinary joy. It involved family, mentors, friends, and eventually a successful business enterprise. Through it all, their personal collection would become one of the finest groups of Massachusetts decoys ever assembled.



Burr Family Yellowlegs, Hingham, MA, ca. early 1900s



David Goodspeed Red-Breasted Mergansers, Duxbury, MA, ca. 1910

Steven recounts that the Cape Cod his father found was “a place of dirt roads, cranberry bogs, freshwater ponds and extensive salt marshes...an outdoorsman’s paradise...full of upland game, and five saltwater basins teem(ing) with oysters, clams, fish and ducks. Ted’s youth was spent shellfishing, boating and hunting.

As a young man, he could throw his decoys, shotgun and his trusty lab Bridie into his jeep and hunt any of these places...On one trip

to the Great Marshes (around 1959) in Barnstable, he found a Mason standard grade black duck under an old, dilapidated gunning shack. It was of course devoid of most of its paint...he repainted it and hunted over it for a few years. He kept that bird for almost sixty years and to this day we still have the “cornerstone” of his collection.” This single, well-used decoy would eventually lead to a life deeply rooted in collecting and dealing in old wooden waterfowl and shorebird decoys.

The Early Days

Working for his father and starting a family with his new bride Judy didn’t allow Ted much time to get terribly serious about collecting. However, this didn’t dampen his enthusiasm. Ted found two of the very few collector reference books available at the time -- “The Art of the Decoy: American Bird Carvings” by Adele Earnest and “American Bird Decoys” by Bill Mackey – greatly helping him to learn more about this growing interest. In 1968, he made his first decoy purchase, a bluebill by Charles Black of Bordentown, NJ, and would

soon have upwards of 30 decoys in the collection.

Today Judy laughs when she tells the story of acquiring some of these decoys, but admits that this was probably not so terribly funny at the time. Second son Doug had arrived in 1969, and with two babies in diapers the couple were in dire need of a clothes dryer. So, Ted set off to make the purchase. However, it so happened that there was a Richard Bourne “Rare American Decoys and Bird Carvings” auction on the Cape on that same stormy winter’s night. Ted couldn’t resist and proceeded to max out the credit card, arriving home with a group of decoys and no dryer! Judy recalls that among these gems was a beautiful pintail by Lloyd Sterling, of Crisfield, MD that was made in the 1940s.

Getting Serious

In 1972, Ted and Judy met Tony Waring, an architect and early collector from Swansea, MA. Tony had an excellent eye for design and style and his influence was instrumental in Ted’s education. Tony introduced Ted to a broad network of collectors,



Charles Hart Green-Winged Teal, Gloucester, MA, ca. 1930



Capt. Samuel Fabens Hen Goldeneye, Marblehead, MA, ca. 1880

contacts that would be the foundation of his deeper involvement in decoys.

Tony had introduced Ted to Bud Prescott, a neighbor of Tony's and a serious collector. Upon Bud's passing in the early 70's, Ted talked to his widow and negotiated to buy all of his 1200 birds. Funded with a small business loan from a local bank, this was the beginning of Ted and Judy's decoy "business," the buying and selling decoys for profit.

By the mid-70's, third child Amy had arrived and it was a challenging time for the family with three small children and an unproven business. Ted had to be creative in finding decoys and Judy was pulling triple duty as mom, partner, and nurse to earn money. Ted was going to many shows,

bringing birds for sale or trade as well as consigning decoys to auctions. Shows included the Easton Waterfowl Festival, as well as shows on Long Island, in Charleston, Canada and what was then called the Midwest Decoy Show. At the same time, Ted was always on the lookout for the right pieces to squirrel away for his personal collection.

Decoys Unlimited is Born

By the early 1980s, Ted's knowledge and reputation had connected him to a sizeable network of collectors, many of whom would often come to him when they wanted to sell off parts of their collections. Ted would typically refer them to other outlets. However, by 1986 the volume potential was such that Ted

decided to form his own auction company to take advantage of this growing opportunity.

His first auction took place at the ice rink in Easton, MD. Donald Moore was the auctioneer while the Harmons did the catalog and managed the auction. In 1990 Ted was consigned the large and highly regarded collection of George Thompson of New York. This was a significant milestone and changed the trajectory of the business as they moved to two auctions per year requiring a significant increase in marketing and travel commitments. Decoys Unlimited was incorporated and over the next decade the business prospered. Judy retired from nursing to devote her time to family and the business, transitioning the business to a computer-based operation to become more efficient.



Elmer Crowell Decorative Bluejay, East Harwich, MA, Ca. 1920



Elmer Crowell Least Sandpiper, East Harwich, MA, ca. 1910



Elmer Crowell Preening Black Duck, East Harwich, Ca. 1905



Elmer Crowell Cross-Wing Wood Duck, East Harwich, MA, ca. 1915



Elmer Crowell Cross-Wing Widgeon, East Harwich, MA, ca. 1920



Joe Lincoln Immature Scoter, Accord Village, Hingham, MA, ca. 1910



Joe Lincoln Wood Duck, Accord Village, Hingham, MA, ca. 1930



Fredrick Nichols (attrib.) Feeding Yellowlegs, Lynn, MA, ca. 1890



Joe Lincoln Reaching Goose, Accord Village, Hingham, MA, ca 1930s



Lothrop Holmes Long-Tailed Duck, Kingston, MA, ca. 1880

Leveraging the Local Network

Ted's reputation as a collector on the Cape had proved to be invaluable even in the early years. There was Earl Peters, a fishman from Martha's Vineyard. In the 1970s, Ted got a call from Earl asking if he wanted to come down to the Falmouth Harbor Marina to see some decoys that Earl had found. Ted jumped on the opportunity and picked up barrels of decoys - brant, bluebills, redheads, black ducks and a number of mergansers.

They smelled of fish since they were in the same barrels Earl used to bring his fish to market. Over the next couple of years, Earl would call several more times until all of the birds he had found in an old barn were gone. This is where most of the Keyes Chadwick decoys in the family's collection had come from.

Ever alert to opportunities, on another occasion Ted saw an ad in the local paper about an auction in Falmouth that included some decoys. He immediately called the

seller to see if he could stop by to just take a look at the birds. She told him that she had just bought them at a Girl Scout sale earlier in the week. There were five excellent Mason Premier grade decoys - three red-breasted drake mergansers and two hen mallards. He suspected that these birds had been part of a large group of Mason decoys rumored to have been stored in crates in a Falmouth sporting goods store after its closing years earlier. Years later after his auction business was formed, a Falmouth doctor consigned a crate of Mason standard grade bluebills that he said had come from that same sporting goods store. So, Ted concluded that the rumor must have been true. What a find!

Over time, Ted's own collecting interests became more focused on Massachusetts waterfowl and shorebird decoys, and he worked his many connections to find a number of great pieces. For instance, there was the Elmer Crowell

"dust jacket" plovers so prominently featured on Bill Mackey's book cover. A splendid group of shorebirds by Melvin Gardner Lawrence came from a "Miss Ruth" Mohr in nearby Saugus, MA.

Building a Legacy

Ted had developed a remarkable eye for art and sculpture and loved the working decoy for its form. He had become a student of the history of decoy making in Massachusetts through continuous exposure to rare and stunning examples through his broad network. Despite dealing with serious health issues, Ted continued running the auction business and feeding his collection with the help of cell phones, computers and the internet.

As a result, the Harmons were able to create a collection of decoys that became one of the finest assemblages of Massachusetts decoys ever held in private hands. Throughout his career Ted would find groups of decoys and put



Melvin Garner Lawrence Sleeping Peep, Hull or Revere, MA, ca. 1910



Unknown Maker Sickle Billed Curfew, MA South Shore, ca. 1890



Luther Nickerson Red-Breasted Mergansers, Cotuit, MA, ca. 1915



Unknown Maker Running Yellowlegs, From the Dr. John C Phillips Rig

aside the few rare and unique items for himself. Many were hidden in the dirt floor basement of their home for decades and were rediscovered when the family uncovered them after Ted's passing in 2023.

A selection of these spectacular finds is pictured throughout this story, many of which were recently displayed at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. A beautiful, 148-page book covering Massachusetts makers and their work was published to commemorate this unique display. Copies are still available and can be purchased by calling the Museum at (410) 939-3739.



Keyes Chadwick Mergansers, Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard, MA, ca. 1915

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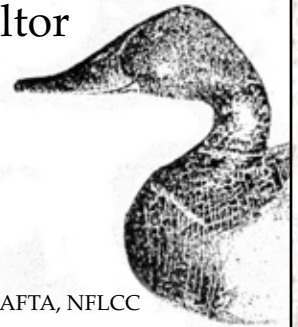
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Priority will be given to returning exhibitors who have held tables in prior years provided your reservation and payment is received by March 15. The table cost remains the same as last year:

- \$75 per table for reservations and payment by March 15, 2025

- \$100 per table for reservation and payment after March 15, 2025

Early Grand Ballroom Set-Up Time!

Set-up time in the Grand Ballroom 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 1:00pm. 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, and then again on Friday morning during set-up. Please wear this badge in the Grand Ballroom at all times.

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



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

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

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