



Strong Market Helps Fuel Another Successful Show

The dust has settled from the 2025 edition of the North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show, and “robust” was an often heard description of activity during the event. The show “officially” began on Tuesday and room-to-room activity built each day from there through Thursday evening. Dealers then moved to the hotel’s Grand Ballroom on Friday and Saturday for the tabled show. But of course, there were many more activities that took place during the week. This included a story-laden seminar discussion about the Ted & Judy Harmon collection, a 2-day Guyette & Deeter auction, previews of upcoming summer auctions, collectibles displays, carving demonstrations, and much more.

All in all, it was a terrific week with something for every taste. For those of you who attended, we hope that this newsletter brings back some fond memories of rekindled relationships, quality acquisitions, and just plain fun. If you couldn’t make it this year, the following Show Report should give you a good feel for what you missed, although there is no substitute for experiencing everything that the show has to offer first-hand.

It’s not too early to make plans to attend next year’s show, scheduled for April 21-25, 2026 once again at the Westin Chicago Lombard hotel in Lombard, Illinois. You’ll be glad you did.



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 2025 gathering was a joy. Thank you to all. The energy during this year's event was

stimulating. A telling quote from our post show follow-up says it all. "If you didn't have fun at Lombard, you just don't know how to have fun!"

We are settling into this location and learning how to best utilize the facility. The COVID cloud is behind us and the hotel staffing has stabilized eliminating some of the disruptions from the past. Our club operations are normalizing so we have been able to reach out and increase our collaboration with other organizations. This was demonstrated in producing valuable new experiences during the event.

The Call Maker and Collector event has grown, and the Thursday dinner/auction was well attended with Grant Cole calling the auction. Katie Burke, DU Heritage Center Curator hosted a charming discussion with the Harmon family about their collecting journey with Judy Harmon sharing her inside view of the joy of collecting. Pat Gregory and Phil Jones have been the decoy ambassadors for the carver corner and this year Delta Waterfowl joined to sponsor the activity. Pat Gregory and Brian Moyse carved Delta Marsh cans which will be auctioned during the expo. John Munson and the Evans Collectors

Society teamed up to produce a display of black ducks that was the first gathering of such a diverse display.

Over a decade ago we began our outreach with both DU and Delta with the success visible at our event. The Center for American Decoys in Peoria is growing, making it a valuable resource for all collectors. This past year we strengthened our collaboration with Mike Tarquini and the Havre de Grace Museum. The connection between the Chesapeake and Koshkonong decoys will be fun to explore. Please take time to learn from and support all of these organizations.

We are already working the 2026 event as we previewed a fish plaque display and are working with Jon and Amy Sarver as featured carver team.

The experience during our event is unique and gives everyone the opportunity to enjoy the sport and art of collecting. Liz and I have had three post show visits already and things have headed to new homes.

It is an exciting time for collecting. New items are emerging constantly and the social interaction during our event is just plain fun. Please make sure your membership is renewed and begin talking with friends about attending in 2026. Call a friend and go visit another collection.

Happy Collecting! Enjoy the summer and stay safe!

Rick



Membership Gains

Interest in membership generally surges as we get close to our April show, and we get a good number of walk-ins to join at the show itself as attendees recognize the great value in being a member. This year was no exception. All told, we've signed up nearly 75 new members since late last year. They bring an array of collecting interests as far flung as their hometowns, including fishing lures, sporting art, contemporary and vintage decoys, and much more. Check out the list of new members on the next page to see who's nearby or who shares your particular collecting interests. They just might become a new friend and a source for something new for your shelf.

Treasurer's Report: Club is Healthy as Ever



With the 2025 NADCA Show in the books, club treasurer Kurt Woodworth is happy to report that the club continues to be on very solid financial footing.

The last few years have been particularly challenging, as we've transitioned to a new event location and have experienced inflation in the cost of our services. Despite these challenges, we are doing very well and we have successfully balanced revenues with expenses.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- › Membership remains strong & we are attracting new members
- › Annual show participation remains good & has normalized over the past few years.
- › While expenses have increased, revenues have kept pace and our cash flow position increased slightly over the prior year.

As we look to the future, your Board will continue to develop further partnerships and explore alternative methods to attract new members and drive traffic to our annual show, while ensuring that we maintain our strong financial position for years to come.

Your involvement makes all this possible and dues are essential in running the organization, producing newsletters, our member directory, and promoting and hosting the annual show. Thank you for your membership and continued support.

Full Member Directory to Come in Spring, 2026

Given the number of new members we've attracted in the past year, it's time to issue a full directory for 2026 that will be mailed to members who are current with their dues in the spring. If you have any changes to your personal information (address, phone, etc.) or want to modify the description of your collecting interests in your listing, please send them in an email to Jeff Seregny at jseregny@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Peterson Canada Goose Collection Tour Starts at DU



Board member Katie Burke is excited to announce that the nationwide tour of the famed Peterson collection of Canada goose decoys is set to begin on August

1, 2025 at the Ducks Unlimited Waterfowling Heritage Center in Memphis, Tennessee where Katie is curator. This is without a doubt the finest group of Canada goose decoys ever assembled. The nearly 150 pieces will be on display at the Center for a year, after which it will move to the Peoria (IL) Riverfront Museum followed by the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont.

To kick things off, Katie plans a podcast in July with Zac Zetterburg, Curator of Art and the Center for American Decoys at the Peoria Riverfront Museum, and Kory Rogers, Senior Curator of American Art at Shelburne Museum. They will discuss the collection in detail, its significance as an art form as well as its importance in American history. Look for what is sure to be a fascinating discussion by clicking on this link: <https://www.ducks.org/media/du-podcast>. You'll also find many other podcasts featuring club members who discuss their own collecting and carving journeys.

Welcome New Members

Achterberg, Lance

Oshkosh, WI
*Winnebago region foremost;
Wisconsin in general*

Anderson, Jamie

East Dundee, IL
Wisconsin decoys

Beernick, Dustin

Hudson, IL

Beernick, Bryan

Hudson, IL

Bolduan, Jeffrey

Syracuse, IN
Sporting art; Dodge shorebirds

Boprey, Bryan

Green Bay, WI
Decoys

Corteen, Michael

Huntley, IL

Darling, Harris

Worthington, MN
Primitive decoys

Doering, Ryan

Ramsey, MN
Decoys and duck calls

Eager, Philip

Eatontown, NJ
Northwest and Mid-Atlantic

Ellis, Robert

Plymouth, MA
East Coast decoys

Fabula, Andrew

Baldwin, MD

Fedewa, Roy

Lowell, MI
Fish decoys; Goldeneye decoys

Felker, Roy

Halifax, PA
*Wood carvings: ducks, gamebirds,
shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, fish*

Feltes, Ronald

Elburn, IL

Fett, Eric

St Clair Shores, MI
*Tom Schroeder, Ferdinand Bach,
Thomas Chambers, Ben Schmidt,
Gus Moak*

Flaks, Ken

Hawthorn Woods, IL
Perdew calls

Gambitsky, Peter

Smithtown, NY

Gatshall, Barbara

Downers Grove, IL

Goodwin, Penelope

Trenton, ME
Contemporary decoys

Graeff, Michael

Gearhart, OR
*Illinois River, Evans, Perdew,
Schifferl, Ruppel, Howard Hughes
(OR), Andy Anderson, lower
Mississippi decoys*

Graf, John

Fallston, MD
*Ward Brothers, Upper Bay MD,
Crowell, contemporary*

Grinwis, Brett

Kalamazoo, MI
All

Hackett, Glen

Westerville, OH
Mason decoys

Hansen, Peter

Mequon, WI

Hare, Chris

Monroeville, AL
Calls

Harmon, Doug

Nevada City, CA
All

Hasty, Michael

Peoria, IL
Decoys and waterfowl artwork

Hayes, Robert

Emden, IL

Hill, Ned

Sonoma, CA
*San Francisco Bay & California
decoys*

Hockings, Pat

Spring Valley, IL

Hoopes, Ed

South Yarmouth, MA
*Northeast brant (esp. MA),
goldeneye decoys*

Houvener, Zach

Devall, WA
*Grayson Chesser, Rob Capriola,
Sean Sutton, gunners*

Hruby, Mike

Rosenberg, TX

Hudson, Boyce

Raleigh, NC
*Decoys and antique wooden
fishing lures*

Jahnke, Chris

Cologne, MN
Decoys, calls

Kampovitz, Randy

Elm Creek, NE

Keusch, Gregory

Delton, MI

Kjos, Lee

Webster, MN

Kukowski, Gerald

Dakota, MN
*Wood carved birds, fish, animals;
Knives*

Kukowski, Jon

Winona, MN
*Wood carved birds, fish, animals;
Knives*

LaPine, Jordan

Kalamazoo, MI
*Antique decoys (fish/ducks),
signs, artwork, and misc.*

LoPinto, Joseph

New York, NY

Marler, Jody

Livingston, MT
All

Mayden, Donald

Alhambra, IL
Illinois River decoys

McDaniel, Nicole

Shrewsbury, MA
*Specializing in restoration of
books, posters, shot boxes,
paper goods*

McFadden, Trent

Oklahoma City, OK

McNally, Andrew

Winnetka, IL

Middleton, Steve

Madison Heights, VA
All decoys

Mrosko, Kyle

Conroe, TX
*Contemporary: McNair,
Hanson, McIntyre, Gibian,
Ward, Schmiedlin*

Mrosko, Scott

Conroe, TX
Harvey & George Stevens

Nichols, George

Saint Leonard, MD
*Maryland & Chesapeake Bay
working decoys*

O'Neil, Patrick

Faribault, MN
Vintage advertising

Orlandi, Gary

Dalzell, IL

Orr, Cody

St Louis, MO

Petersen, Terry

Letts, IA
Decoys

Porter, Randall

Lake Elmo, MN
Evans, Mason

Porter, DuWayne

Canton, OH
*Factory decoys before 1950,
non-plastic*

Protzman, Rob

Loveland, CO

Quindt, Dave

Hinckley, IL

Sanders, J. Lloyd

Rising Sun, MD
*Upper Chesapeake, surrounding
areas*

Seng, David

Jasper, IN
Vintage collectible advertising

Shannahan, Sean

Madison, WI
Decoys

Silagyi, Ernest

Trenton, NJ
*Note Decoy Magazine Jan/Feb,
2023*

SmooDe, Joe

Granville, IL

Speight, Donald

Aurora, CO
Decoys

Stokes, Cody

Hazelwood, MO

Sulzman, Dr. Robert

West Chester, PA
Misc. decoys

Tarquini, Michael

Havre de Grace, MD
Contemporary decoys

Tate, Randy

Sycamore, IL
*Miniatures, fish decoys, antique
& contemporary carvings*

Tubbs, J.T. Skip

Bozeman, MT
Sporting antique dealer

Vandermeer, Chad

Arlington, IL

Wentz, Lucas

West End, NC
Old fishing lures & decoys

Williams, Elaine

Brewster, MA
Crowell decoys

Woodward, Mike

Lexington, NE

Zachmann, Matthew

Canton, MI
*John Zachmann decoys
(grandfather)*



The Show is all about making connections and having fun!





2025 Show Report

Once again, the 2025 North American Vintage Decoys & Sporting Collectibles Show was held during the last full week in April at the Westin Chicago Lombard hotel. The following pages provide a full review of the show activities during the week. Although the review here is quite comprehensive, one can't get a true feel for the show's energy and diversity of activities without actually experiencing it. We encourage all to start making plans to attend next year's show, April 21-25, 2026, once again at the Westin Chicago Lombard hotel. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this look at this year's event.



Room-to-Room Trading

While we officially began on Tuesday, dealers started arriving on Easter Sunday to get an early jump on the week. By Monday evening, there were over 40 rooms with their doors open for business. Another 67 rooms were humming with activity opened on Tuesday. With 50 more rooms filled by Wednesday evening, the show was in full swing and the energy was palpable. All told, we had over 150 rooms occupied as collectors wandered the halls well into the evenings, enjoying the comradery and even an occasional adult beverage, while searching for something to add to their collections. This is always a wonderful time getting reacquainted with old friends and making new ones with similar interests.





Annual Seminar

The Harmon Collection *Journey of a Lifetime*



There was a lot of pre-show buzz surrounding the sale of the first installment of the Ted & Judy Harmon collection of Massachusetts decoys, and deservedly so. On Wednesday afternoon, our seminar featured a lively discussion with Judy Harmon and her sons, Steve and Doug, as they regaled the large crowd with many stories about how Ted and Judy managed to put together what is clearly the finest group of Massachusetts decoys ever assembled. The discussion was deftly moderated by Board member Katie Burke, using her skills as a podcast moderator for DU to make this an engaging and entertaining session for all.

Ted, with Judy's strong support, clearly became the "go to" guy for decoys on Cape Cod beginning in the early 1970s. He established a network of folks who would bring him decoys to buy or sell for them, and his keen eye allowed him to keep the very best and sell the rest at a handsome profit. This eventually led to the formation of their auction firm, Decoys Unlimited, which provided even more opportunities to find great birds for their personal collection. Ted would squirrel away the "good stuff," many of which Judy and the kids weren't even aware. They were amazed at what they discovered as they began to organize the collection for sale. Ted obviously had a very good eye for great decoys, as evidenced by the high degree of collector interest in the sale of the collection.



The Ballroom Event

Commerce was in Full Swing

On Friday and Saturday, the hotel's Grand Ballroom was filled 225 tables offering every kind of sporting collectible imaginable for sale. Throughout the event, over 450 buyers roamed the large room looking for that perfect addition for their shelves. Silent auctions added to the activity as bidders vied for items that attendees brought to the show, at the same time contributing a small commission to support the club. Hourly door prize drawings supported our sellers by awarding winners \$50 toward any show purchase. Ten lucky attendees went on to buy something, adding to our dealers' take.

So Much More to See

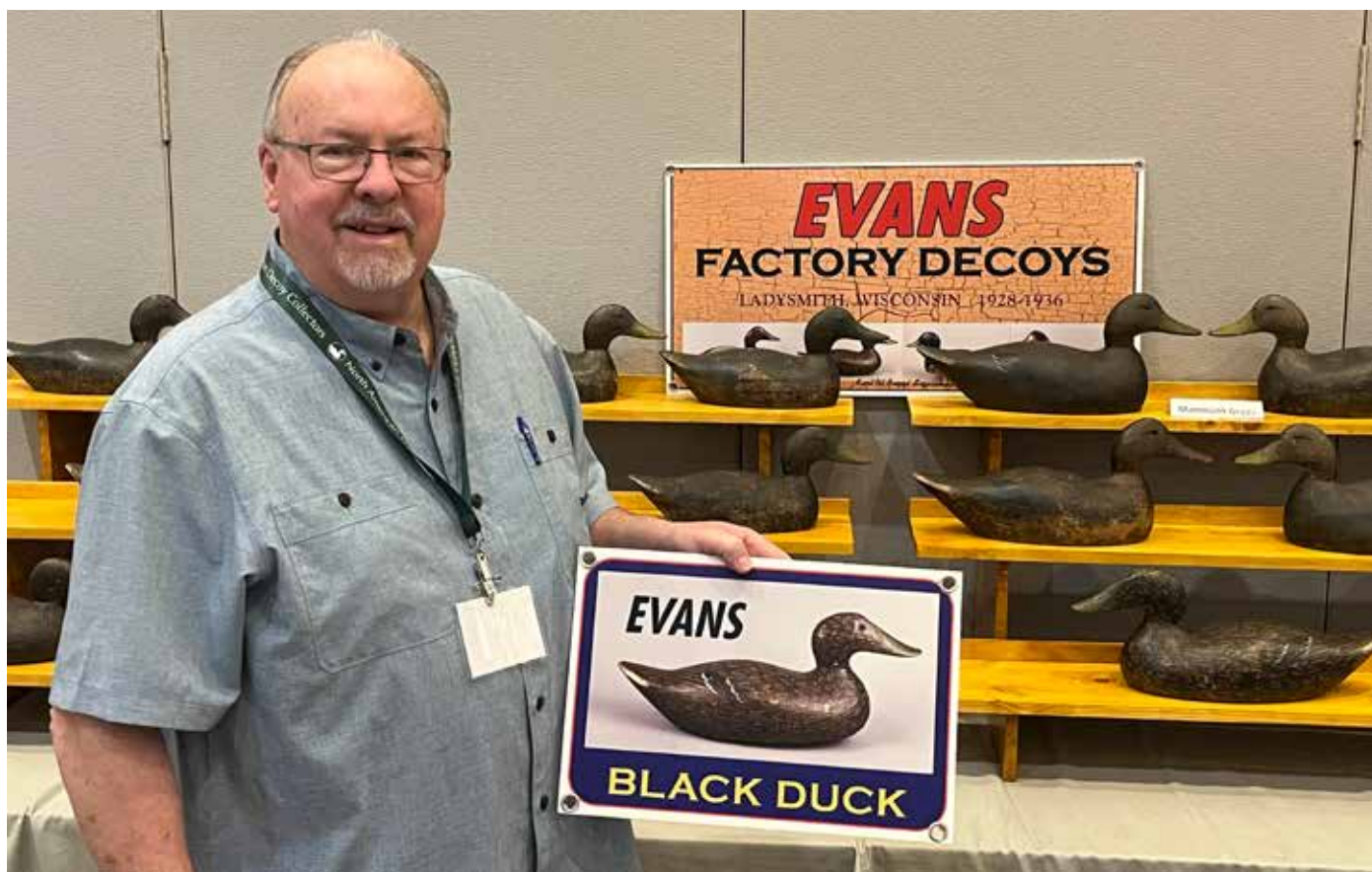
While commerce was certainly the focus, these two days were filled with so much more. Sporting collectibles displays, featured artist exhibits, carving demonstrations, future auction previews, and conservation organization exhibits all ensured that the show offered something for every everyone. A review of all of these special events follows.





Evans Factory Black Duck Display

Member John Munson created an amazingly diverse display of black ducks from the Evans Factory in Ladysmith, Wisconsin. Founder Walter Evans offered three models: Mammoth, Standard and Competitive. Both solid and hollow versions on the Mammoth and Standard decoys were made. The display included all of this and more with variations within the various models. John was on hand to explain these differences to the many curious attendees who stopped by. Many thanks to John to putting this terrific display together.



Fish Plaque Display

Carved fish plaques find their roots in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, particularly in Scotland and England, where anglers sought artistic alternatives to traditional taxidermy for commemorating notable catches. These carvings, often of Atlantic salmon, became popular as a way to immortalize prized fish with detailed, painted wooden replicas.

For the first time, our show featured a selection of carved fish plaques and trophies by various makers, including those from Oscar Peterson, Lawrence Irvine as well as well-known early British makers. This was just a precursor to a broader display being planned for 2026. If any of our members have interest in sharing quality fish plaques for next year's display, please contact Jim Wierzba at hoke4me@aol.com or (262) 238-0282 or Matt Downs at matthewdowns@sbcglobal.net or (630) 212-0059.





Sporting Collectible Displays

Wisconsin Gunning Box Display

Due to their long-time popularity with show attendees, the creative designs of what are often referred to as “Lake Poygan” gunning boxes were again on full display. These unique items provided storage for all kinds of hunting paraphernalia (gloves, shells, snacks, coffee, etc.), and often included a rack to hold one’s shotgun when not in use. The inventiveness and variability of design of these old boxes is something to behold. Thanks to Joe LeRoy for bringing together this year’s great group of boxes for all to enjoy.



Featured Artist

Adam Grimm



Adam Grimm (r) admiring high-head decoy by maker Pat Gregory (l).



After a terrific reception in 2024, Adam Grimm agreed to return this year to show off his latest work. In 1999, he was the youngest person ever to win the Federal Duck Stamp Competition and has won it two more times since, including in 2024. He was again accompanied by his family, including his daughter Madison, who was youngest winner ever of the Junior Federal Duck Stamp competition when she remarkably won the prize at the age of just six years old. Many thanks to Adam for sharing his wonderful work again.

CONTEMPORARY MAKERS



As in the past, our “Contemporary Corner” included demonstrations by contemporary decoy makers, as well as a large exhibit of work by our “featured” carver. Many of today’s talented decoy makers were on hand offering their carvings for sale. Among these were R.D. Wilson, Marty Hanson and Cameron McIntyre to name just a few.



This year’s carving demonstrations came with a special twist through a collaboration with Delta Waterfowl. Show mainstay Pat Gregory and Delta Waterfowl’s Brian Moyse showed off their decoy making skills, each carving a Delta Marsh Canvasback that will be auctioned off at the Delta Waterfowl Duck Hunters Expo in Oklahoma City in late July. Attendees were greatly appreciative of the time these makers took to show how it’s done.

At the same time, Delta Waterfowl had a big presence at the show. They exhibited green-winged teal decoys from the 2024 Delta Decoy Hunt, as well as assorted vintage Delta Marsh decoys made by Duncan Ducharme and painted by Peter Ward.

Displays included promotion of their Million Duck Campaign which aims to put 1 million additional ducks into the prairie breeding grounds through innovative duck production programs backed by decades of scientific research. They also showed off their Delta Waterfowl hen houses, structures designed to increase mallard duck populations by providing safe nesting sites. Both of these programs are certainly worthy of our support.

Brian Moyse demonstrates his carving skills.

CONTEMPORARY MAKERS

Featured Maker

Russell Owen



This year's featured carver was Russell Owen, of Denmark, South Carolina, a self-taught decoy maker who uses traditional carving techniques and hand tools to create what he refers today as "heirloom-quality gunning rigs." The range of his work was on full display here and was a big hit with showgoers. We want to thank Russell for sharing his great work with all of us.

Member “Favorite” Decoy Contest

This year our annual Saturday decoy contest brought out some fantastic black ducks in both the vintage and contemporary categories. There were nearly 30 entries in total, and judges Paul Brisco, Steve Handevitd and Jon Deeter had a tough time coming up with the top birds in each category. After a lot of lively debate, they did finally come to a consensus and awarded the top vintage decoy prize to Erik Spengler for his tucked head black duck made by Enoch Reindahl of Stoughton, Wisconsin. The top contemporary decoy was a wonderful piece with outstretched wings made by Josh Brewer of Little Deer Isle, Maine. This decoy is owned by club president, Rick Sandstrom.

Congratulations to the winners and a big “thank you” to all who submitted an entry. We look forward to next year’s competition and will announce the contest decoy categories soon.



The Vintage Category



First Place:
Enoch Reindahl,
Stoughton, WI
Owner: Erik Spengler



Second Place:
Rhodes Truex,
Atlantic City, NJ
Owner: Dick McIntyre



Third Place:
Unknown: Canada
Owner: Julie Rigsbee

The Contemporary Category



First Place:
Josh Brewer,
Little Deer Isle, ME
Owner: Rick Sandstrom



Second Place:
Marty Hanson Pair,
Hayward, WI
Owner: Barb Hanson



Third Place:
Jim Schmiedlin,
Bradfordwoods, PA
Owner: Mike Martin



Auction Highlights

\$504,000



\$354,000



Following Wednesday's auction preview reception, on Thursday and Friday, Guyette and Deeter held their annual spring sale. The auction featured the first installment of the lifetime collection of Ted & Judy Harmon. The Harmon collection set new auction records for carvers Melvin Gardner Lawrence, Keyes Chadwick, and James Look. In the end, this first installment (40 items) of the collection sold for nearly \$2.3 million. The overall sale grossed just over \$6 million, the third highest grossing decoy auction of all time.

Session I of the Peter and Diana Bennett collection followed the Harmon offerings and the only known pair of challenge grade wood ducks and the earliest examples of the species by the maker brought \$354,000. Decoys, fish, and folk art from the collections of Len Carnaghi, Jim Richards, and Don and Mary Elizabeth Snyder were all met with great demand.



Auction House Previews



As usual, all of the major auction houses were on-site previewing items for upcoming auctions and taking consignments for future sales. Grant Cole with Auctioneers, Inc. and Mike Martin with American Sporting Auctions both displayed a ton of good pieces soon to be offered at their summer auctions. Guyette & Deeter also previewed significant items including selections from the second installments of the Harmon and Bennett collections to be sold in late July.

On Thursday, Copley Fine Art Auctions hosted reception that provided a look at key items in their July auction. These included a number of great pieces from the collection of Jeff & member Joyce Hay. The event also included a display of four Schoenheider geese from the Peterson collection that will be touring for the next several years.

Based on the decoys that were previewed, it continues to be a great time to be a collector as more and more terrific things come to market.

59TH NORTH AMERICAN Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show



SAVE THE DATE
April 21-25, 2026

The Westin Lombard
– LOMBARD, IL –

- Room to Room Trading
- Ballroom Dealer Event
- Guyette & Deeter Auction
- Seminars
- Displays
- Carving Demonstrations
- Free Appraisals
- And more

Sponsored by the North American Decoy Collectors Assn.

For information go to nadecoycollectors.org
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