

NORTH AMERICAN
Decoy Collectors
ASSOCIATION

Winter 2026 Newsletter

Our 60th Anniversary is Here!



Come Celebrate With Us! April 21-25, 2026

2026 marks a truly special moment for the North American Decoy Collectors Association — our 60th anniversary show. For six decades, we've brought together collectors, carvers, and historians to celebrate the rich heritage of the decoy as folk art. This milestone event will feature special exhibits, tributes to our founding members, and one-of-a-kind experiences that honor our past while looking ahead to the future of collecting.

What started out as a small gathering of collectors and carvers

in 1966, has become the largest and longest running show and collecting club anywhere. Our roots are deep. The founders were among the who's who of pioneering collectors – Hal Sorensen, Will Pennington, Ralph Loeff proclaimed themselves to be the "Official Self-Appointed Meeting Committee." The show attracted many other names that are still well-known to today's collectors - Ben Schmidt, Harold Haertel, Heck Wittington, William Schultz, Gene Konopasek,

Joe French, not to mention Dave Spengler and Joe Tonelli. It's time to recognize these early trailblazers and to celebrate how far we've come.

We look forward to having you join us at the North American Vintage Decoy & Collectibles Show, April 21-25, 2026 at the Westin Chicago Lombard hotel in Lombard, Illinois. Whether you've been coming for years or it's your first time, this will be a show to remember — a true celebration of our shared legacy.



The First Show, 1966, Ramada Inn, Ottawa, IL

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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

2025 was a year of great progress and success.

Interest in decoys was demonstrated with an exciting and active market. There were many factors contributing to this including many long-time collections being sold with items that had not been available for decades.

Our membership is strong with many new members and a nice increase in attendance at our event. Our association finished last year in a strong financial position giving us the ability to continue to evolve and do more to enhance the show experience. We have extended our relationship with the Westin hotel that ensures that we have the space for our current footprint through 2028 as well as support for potential growth.

Feedback from our 2025 show attendees was inspiring and has helped us shape future shows. We must thank our volunteers as throughout the year they work to deliver an unmatched experience.

Looking Ahead

Our 2026 event will be an opportunity that should not be missed. We are celebrating the joy of collecting and will recognize our 60th year with some very special activities.

Our annual event is unique with three major activities beginning with room-to-room trading, the Guyette & Deeter auction, and the ballroom show. The room-to-room selling

activity runs from floor two through six with 150 rooms, some of which have three different occupants during the week's activities.

Guyette & Deeter will begin the selling of the Jim & Diane Cook Collection which took over 40 years to assemble and represents one of the finest decoy collections ever assembled.

There will be many contemporary carvers attending our event and their work is inspiring and that market is on fire. It is special to be able to work directly with the artist and create something for your collection.

We are working with a growing group of collaborators to provide a richer experience throughout the week. Our goal is to give every attendee the opportunity to learn and connect with a larger network. Last year documented attendees from 37 states and most Canadian provinces.

Room booking is already higher than last year. Please reach out to your collecting friends encourage them to take advantage of the opportunity. Renew your membership - it's a great value. Firm up your travel and make your hotel reservations early. We are essentially building a "decoy shopping mall" in the hotel, so the early information gives us the time we need to build more effective room and show table plans.

See you soon. Joyful Collecting in 2026!

Rick



guyette & deeter

auctions since 1984

Decoys | Art | Fine Sporting Arms

Decoy and Sporting Art Auction April 23 & 24, 2026

Held in partnership with the North American
Decoy Collectors Association Show



A once in a life-time auction event
The Jim and Diane Cook Collection
Session I to be offered April 2026



410-745-0485
guyetteanddeeter.com
1210 S Talbot St, Unit A
St. Michaels, MD 21663
Jon Deeter • 440-610-1768
jdeeter@guyetteanddeeter.com
Zac Cote • 207-321-8091
zcote@guyetteanddeeter.com

Member News

Membership Remains Strong

With nearly 750 active members, the NADCA remains the largest decoy and sporting collectibles organization anywhere. Since our 2025 show, we've added over 75 new members, signaling great interest in our hobby. Representing nearly every state in the U.S. and a number of Canadian provinces, our members collect a broad range of items related to the outdoors. In addition to decoys, this includes animal traps, shell boxes, fishing tackle and lures, canoe cups, ammunition company advertising and pinbacks, powder tins, folk art, and more. A list of new members who have joined since our last publication is below. Please welcome them.

Jamie Anderson

East Dundee, IL
Wisconsin Decoys

Chris Aurand

Berwick, PA
Ducks

Dustin Beernink

Hudson, IL

Bryan Beernink

Hudson, IL

Brian Blasingame

Decatur, IL

Bryan Boprey

Green Bay, WI
Decoys

Michael Corteen

Huntley, IL

Harris Darling

Worthington, MN
Primitive decoys

Roy Fedewa

Lowell, MI
Fish decoys; Goldeneye ducks

Eric Fett

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

Peter Gambitsky

Smithtown, NY

Barbara Gatshall

Downers Grove, IL

Brett Grinwis

Kalamazoo, MI
All

Peter Hansen

Mequon, WI

Chris Hare

Monroeville, AL
Calls

Doug Harmon

Nevada City, CA
All

Michael Hasty

Peoria, IL
Decoys and waterfowl artwork

Ned Hill

Sonoma, CA
San Francisco Bay & California decoys

Pat Hockings

Spring Valley, IL

Chris Jahnke

Cologne, MN
Decoys, calls

Lee Kjos

Webster, MN

Jordan LaPine

Kalamazoo, MI
Antique decoys (fish/ducks), signs, artwork

Donald Mayden

Alhambra, IL
Illinois River decoys

Nicole McDaniel

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

Trent McFadden

Oklahoma City, OK

Paul McGovern

Lynnwood, WA

Andrew McNally

Winnetka, IL

David Mears

Franktown, VA
Working decoys

George Mesires

Chicago, IL
Thousand Islands/ St Lawrence River carvers

Steven Michaan

Pound Ridge, NY

Michael Mielens

Bay City, MI
Decoys and wildlife art

Kyle Mrosko

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

Scott Mrosko

Conroe, TX
Harvey & George Stevens decoys

Patrick O'Neil

Faribault, MN
Vintage advertising

Gary Orlandi

Dalzell, IL

Wade Palashewski

Andover, MN
Mason decoys

Terry Petersen

Letts, IA
Decoys

Rob Protzman

Loveland, CO

Dave Quindt

Hinckley, IL

Ryan Reidmiller

Olathe, KS

David Seng

Jasper, IN
Vintage collectible advertising

Sean Shannahan

Madison, WI
Decoys

Joe Smoode

Granville, IL

Cody Stokes

Hazelwood, MO

Craig Tisdale

Grayslake, IL

John Tomczyk

Empire, MI
Mason decoys & Oscar Peterson

J.T. Skip Tubbs

Bozeman, MT
Sporting antique dealer

Chad Vandermeersch

Arlington, IL

Lucas Wentz

West End, NC
Old fishing lures & decoys

Elaine Williams

Brewster, MA
Crowell decoys

Chris Williamson

Greenville, SC

Mike Woodward

Lexington, NE

Kevin Worfe, Sr.

Helotes, TX
Duck decoys and memorabilia



Cameron McIntyre Featured on DU Podcast

In early December, board member Katie Burke, Curator of the Ducks Unlimited Waterfowling Heritage Center in Memphis, Tennessee, sat down with Cameron McIntyre in his Virginia studio to discuss his solo auction, Portrait of a Farm, that was presented by Guyette & Deeter later that month. Cameron shared insights into the artistry and methodology behind his decoys, while also opening up about the collection of paintings featured in the auction. The conversation explored his history with landscape painting, the inspirations that fuel his work, and how this milestone event blended tradition, craftsmanship, and personal vision. Check it out online at dupodcast.transistor.fm/people/katie-burke.

RUSS GOLDBERGER

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**THIS YEAR'S NORTH AMERICAN DECOY SHOW
PROMISES TO BE THE BEST IN YEARS**

**While we miss being at the show,
here are some decoys
we have available...**



Mason Glasseye
Passenger Pigeon

Mason Challenge
Goldeneye
Rigmate Pair



Mason Premier
Mallard Pair



Mason Premier
Wigeon Drake



Mason
Canada Goose



A Trio of Mason Premier
Black Ducks

Mason Glasseye
Bufflehead Pair



Lloyd Parker
Canada Goose



Frank Schmidt
Black Duck



MORE ON OUR WEBSITE!

RJGAntiques.com

603.433.1770 • Russ@RJGAntiques.com • P.O. Box 60, Rye, NH 03870



NORTH AMERICAN
Decoy Collectors
ASSOCIATION

Member News

Club Facebook Group Continues to Grow



Late last year our club Facebook group was opened up to non-members. This was to both engage a broader collecting audience and to introduce more collectors to the club. Those requesting to join the group are vetted before approval, allowing us to ensure that they are actually collectors and not someone just trying to create mischief. As a result of this shift, we've increased our participation to nearly 700 collectors and it is growing every day. We hope that this will engage more and more collectors over time and continue to help support the club and our hobby.

Full Member Directory Coming in 2026

Our Member Directory has long been a valuable reference tool used by our members to network with fellow collectors and to access useful collecting information. In 2025, we issued a short update that only listed new members who joined during the previous year. In 2026, we will once again produce a full Member Directory which will include the name, contact information and the collecting interests of every active member of the club. We ask all members to check their current directory to ensure that all of their information is still correct. Any updates should be sent to jseregny@gmail.com.



Instagram Show Promotion Debuts



Our promotional efforts to help drive traffic to the show and to recruit younger members to the club began in earnest in January and continues right up to the week of the show in April. While many of us participate in the many decoy and sporting collectibles groups on Facebook, this is simply not where younger folks engage with one another. While we will continue to promote our show through Facebook and other traditional print channels, we are investing in new media to significantly expand our reach to a larger, younger audience. If you are on Instagram, be sure to check it out, and like and share our posts to help us build our audience.

SPECIAL OFFER:

Join by March 31, 2026
and get a **FREE**
NADCA hat!*



Make Sure We Have Your Correct Email Address



Email communications is the fastest and most efficient way to get important club news to you. This includes two out of three of our information-packed newsletters as well as other important show information. If you are not receiving newsletters or other club communications via email, it means that we don't have a good email address on file for you. So check your listing in your member directory and if there is not an email address listed for you, or if it is no longer correct, please send the correction to jseregny@gmail.com and we will update our database so that you won't miss out on any future club news.

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

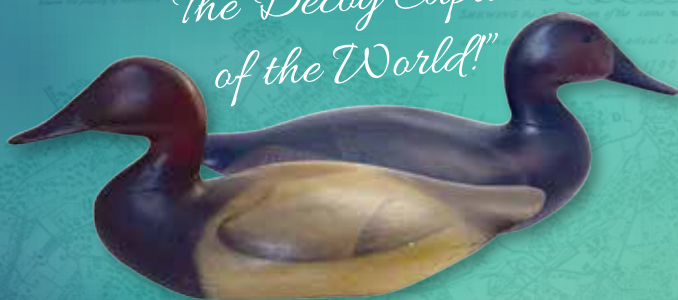
- ☐ \$25 Membership Fee (1 year)
☐ \$70 Membership Fee (3 years)
☐ \$500 Membership Fee (Lifetime)

Make check payable to: North American
Decoy Collectors Association

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

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A rare 1890's pair of Holly family canvasback decoys that were donated to the Museum in 2006 by the Michael Family. "These decoys transcend the decoy as art, folk art and fine art." C. John Sullivan, Jr.

Found at the confluence of the Lower Susquehanna River and the Upper Chesapeake Bay, the Museum is dedicated to the collection, preservation, and interpretation of waterfowl decoys.



215 Giles Street
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Monday - Saturday:
10:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Sunday: 12:00 - 4:00 PM



Learn More!

Come Visit & See for Yourself!

44TH ANNUAL Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

May 2 & 3, 2026

STAR Centre
700 Congress Avenue
Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078

Saturday, May 2
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday, May 3
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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Lee Dudley
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Thomas Chambers
SOLD \$270,000



Nantucket Curlew
SOLD \$228,000



Charles Safford
SOLD \$594,000



John English
SOLD \$246,000

ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS THE SPORTING SALE 2026

Contact a specialist



Steve O'Brien Jr., Owner
Decoy and Fine Art Specialist
steve@copleyart.com



Colin S. McNair
Decoy Specialist
colin@copleyart.com



Jim Allen
Decoy Specialist
jim@copleyart.com



Ben Davenport
Fishing Tackle and Watch Specialist
ben@copleyart.com



The North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectible Show April 21-25, 2026



A Special 60th Anniversary Celebration

The 2026 North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show will be a special one indeed. It's the 60th year of the largest and longest running decoy and sporting collectibles show of its kind. In addition to room-to-room trading, a Guyette & Deeter premier auction, and a 2-day exhibit hall dealer sales event, we will celebrate this important milestone with:

- A display chronicling our long history
- A special gathering to honor our founders
- Commemorative 60-year merchandise

More than ever, the show is simply a "must attend" gathering for anyone interested in America's hunting and fishing past and the captivating folk art that grew from it. We hope you will come to celebrate with us.

Make your plans to attend now!

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 21

All Day – Room-to-Room Trading

Wednesday, April 22

All Day – Room-to-Room Trading

3:00pm-4:00pm – Seminar:
The Cook Collection

4:00pm-5:00pm – Show Registration

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

Thursday, April 23

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 24

8:00am – Call Makers Meeting
& Contest Judging

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

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

11:00am-1:00pm – Members Only
"Early Bird" Show

Noon – 60-year Founders Event

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

- Wisconsin Waterfowling Display
- Jon & Amy Sarver: Featured Carver Exhibit
- Carving Demonstrations/Displays
- Continuous Silent Auctions
- Hourly \$50 Show Voucher Drawings
- Free Identification and Appraisals

Saturday, April 25

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

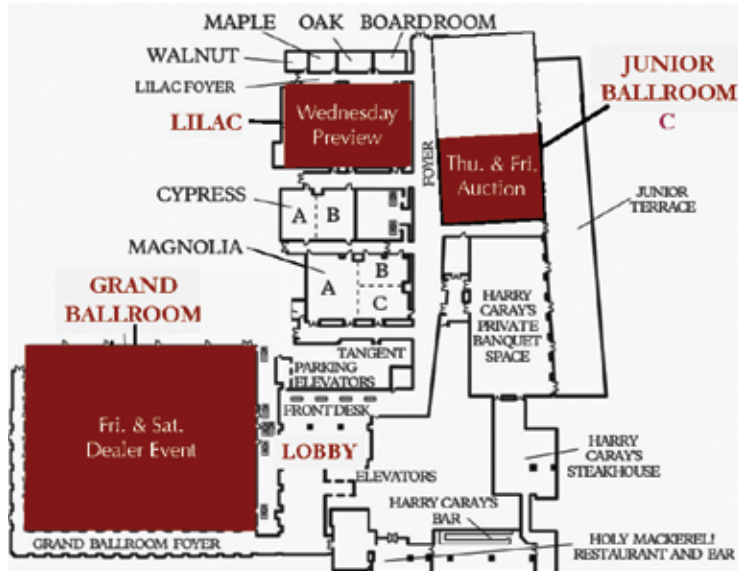
- Member Favorite Decoy Contest (Sleepers/Preeners)
- Displays / Exhibits / Demonstrations
- Silent Auctions / Appraisals / Drawings Continue



It's All Happening at The Westin Chicago Lombard

The entire show takes place at the Westin Chicago Lombard hotel in Lombard, Illinois. The property features large sleeping/selling rooms, well-lit exhibit space and countless amenities, 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.

A preview of the many activities planned for this year's show follows. There's something for everyone!



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 Friday events at the same time. A TV monitor in the Grand Ballroom lets show attendees stay current on the auction's progress.



Celebrating America's finest folk art

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(302) 644-9001 ♦ decoymag@aol.com

Visit us on the web at decoymag.com



Gus Wilson
lifed-wing preening black duck



Room-to-Room Trading: Tuesday – Thursday



The show opens by offering attendees an 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 hotel and be open for collectors roaming the hallways looking for that next "must have" piece to add to their collections. If you are looking for something specific, odds are that you'll find it here among the thousands of items available for sale.

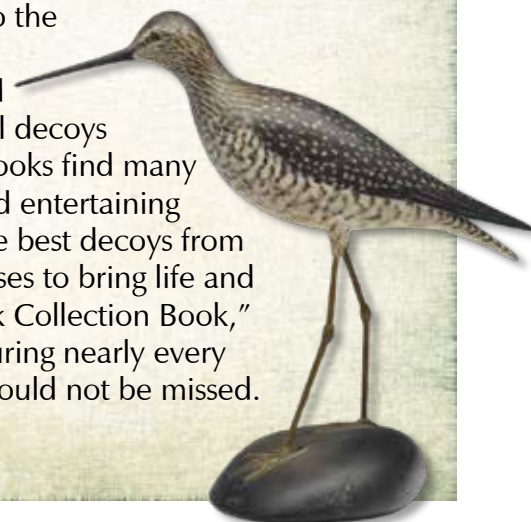
Room-to-Room trading generally runs from 10am in the morning until 9pm at night and gives collectors the chance to interact with and learn from our dealer members. Whether you're a seasoned collector or new to the hobby, you'll find our members to be extremely knowledgeable and more than willing to help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

Educational Seminar: Wednesday

The Jim & Diane Cook Collection



Once again, this year's seminar is a noteworthy one. In a session moderated by Jon Deeter, principal at Guyette & Deeter, Joe Tonelli, legendary collector and friend to the Cooks, will discuss the journey taken by Jim and Diane Cook to acquire what is regarded by many as the finest collection of waterfowl decoys ever assembled. Tonelli, who helped the Cooks find many of their rare pieces, will share fascinating and entertaining stories about their four-decade pursuit of the best decoys from around North America. This seminar promises to bring life and context to the recently published "The Cook Collection Book," an educational, coffee table-style book featuring nearly every piece in the collection. This 3pm session should not be missed.





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some consignments selling in 2026



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JUDE BRUNET | RINGBILLS



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Fair Rates | Multiple Bidding Platforms | Fast Payouts

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WR Pop Pickle | \$16,200



William Koelpin
\$6,300

Cameron McIntyre
\$4,080



Ken Bruning
\$4,560



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WR

Keith Mueller
\$8,100



Mike Borrett
\$3,240



Heck Whittington
\$5,880



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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 yet another iconic collection in 2026. Following up on Wednesday's seminar, the sale will feature the first installment of the Jim and Diane Cook collection of outstanding waterfowl and shorebird decoys, many of which were recently on display at the Havre de Grace Museum.

This sale will also include a wonderful selection of decoys from the collection of Wisconsin collector Dr. J. Michael Shanahan, as well as a selection of outstanding fish decoys from Michigan and Lake St. Clair.

Showgoers can get a first look at the sale items at the Auction 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 attendees 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





auctions since 1984

Decoys | Art | Fine Sporting Arms

Guyette & Deeter weekly at **Bid.guyetteanddeeter.com**

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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.

Premier grade greenwing teal, Mason Decoy Factory, Detroit, Michigan.
SOLD! \$8,640



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



The J. DEALLY
fishing reel, No 10.
Sold! \$8,050



Black duck, Elmer Crowell,
East Harwich, Massachusetts.
SOLD! \$5,040



Yellowlegs, John Fulcher,
Corolla, North Carolina.
SOLD! \$9,480



Miniature pair of
canvasbacks, Leonard
Pryor, Elkton, Maryland
SOLD! \$2,640



Curlew, Eastern
Shore of Virginia.
SOLD! \$6,240

Group of yelper
calls, Billy Buice.
SOLD! \$15,600



CONSIGNMENTS WANTED!

March Super Sale

3/19 - 3/26

Riley Deeter | 440-708-4748

rdeeter@guyetteanddeeter.com



Grand Ballroom Dealer Event: Friday-Saturday



The final event of our 60th anniversary show will take place in the hotel's Grand Ballroom where nearly 300 tables are covered with every kind of sporting collectible imaginable available for sale. While some of the dealers occupied rooms earlier in the week, many others will bring tons of fresh inventory to sell.

There's just so much to experience during this 2-day event. Sporting collectibles displays. Decoy carving demonstrations. Special exhibits by our featured decoy makers. Silent auctions and more.

A Special 60th Anniversary Event

On Friday at noon, all members are invited to come together during the Member "Early Bird" session to celebrate our 60th year. Prior to the public opening, we will salute our founders and celebrate our hobby and its role in preserving the history of this uniquely American folk art. There will be some surprise announcements that members will not want to miss.



Other exciting activities on Friday and Saturday include:

- **Free Appraisals:** Our experts will be on hand throughout the event to help identify and appraise items that attendees bring into the show.
- **Member "Early Bird" Session:** At 11am on Friday, members get a first look at dealer offerings prior to the public admission at 1pm. This is a great opportunity for anyone not currently a member to join the NADCA. Join at the door, online at nadecoycollectors.org, or by mailing in the Member Application found on page 7.
- **\$50 Voucher Drawing:** An opportunity to win a \$50 voucher to use toward the purchase of any item at the show. Drawings are held hourly.
- **Silent Auctions:** These run continuously during the 2-day event. This is a chance to snag some neat items for your collection.



CONSIGNMENTS WANTED

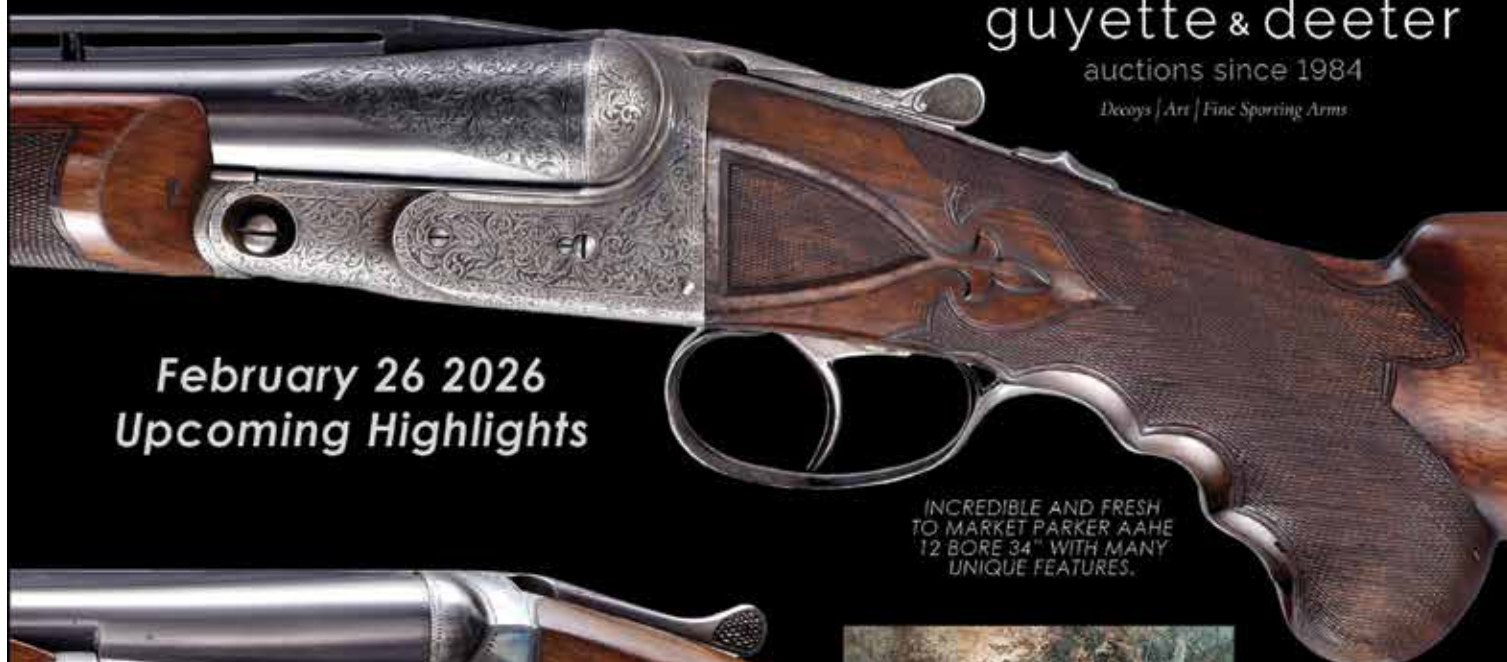


guyette & deeter

auctions since 1984

Decoys | Art | Fine Sporting Arms

February 26 2026 Upcoming Highlights



INCREDIBLE AND FRESH
TO MARKET PARKER AAHE
12 BORE 34" WITH MANY
UNIQUE FEATURES.



RARE AND DESIRABLE ALL
ORIGINAL PARKER VHE
.410 SKEET SHOTGUN.



Incredible Panerai Luminor Tourbillon GMT
"Lo Scienziato" watch and Edmund Henry
Osthaus (1858 - 1928) watercolor. Part of a
wonderful selection included in this sale.



Recent Successes



TRULY SUPERIOR FRESH TO MARKET
PARKER A1 SPECIAL GRADE
DOUBLE TRAP. SOLD : \$216,000



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Celebrating Wisconsin Waterfowling



In this, our 60th year, what better way to celebrate the rich history of American sporting collectibles than to feature the uniqueness and breadth of Wisconsin's duck hunting past. During the past several years, show attendees have enjoyed examining the ingenuity of classic Lake Poygan (WI) gunning boxes. These unique, multi-purpose, wooden "totes" were tools of the Wisconsin hunting trade that allowed these early waterfowling hunters to more easily transport and organize everything they needed for a successful hunt.

This year we will examine a more in depth view of duck hunting in Wisconsin. This display will include a full view of the many items that are unique to Wisconsin waterfowling. This will include decoys with their classic folksy form; handmade, canvas-covered wooden duck skiffs built to navigate the state's many lakes and rivers, hand-hewn marsh skis that helped hunters cross muddy areas to reach remote hunting areas, and



other related pieces. This display will transport attendees back in time, providing a glimpse into the fascinating history of duck hunting in the Badger State. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so be sure to check it out.

CONTEMPORARY CORNER

FEATURED MAKER EXHIBIT:

Jon & Amy Sarver



For the first time in our club's history this year's featured decoy maker is a carving couple: Jon and Amy Sarver, from East Peoria, Illinois.

It is significant that in this anniversary year the Sarver's

represent a continuation of the legacy of great Illinois carving couples like Charles and Edna Perdew, Robert and Catherine Elliston. Just like these early couples, Jon and Amy collaborate to produce some wonderful pieces. Jon began by taking carving lessons from member Pat Gregory, while Amy is a university trained artist and was mentored by Virgil Lashbrook on the intricacies of decoy paint. In addition to creating so many great original pieces, the team has become a "go-to" restoration source for many collectors in the Midwest.



ON-SITE DECOY MAKING DEMONSTRATIONS

In addition to our featured decoy makers, many other folk artists will showcase their talents in the Contemporary Corner on Friday and Saturday. This will include carving and painting demonstrations where attendees can learn the "tricks of the trade" directly from contemporary masters. These popular demonstrations represent a great learning opportunity for every budding decoy maker.



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Member “Favorite” Decoy Contest: Saturday “Wake-Up” Call for All Sleepers/Preeners

The NADCA will hold its annual member “Favorite” Decoy Contest on Saturday morning, the final day of the show. This year the focus is on form as the contest will feature decoys in classic sleeper/preening postures. As always, there will be two separate categories — one for vintage decoys (made for hunting prior to 1960), and one for contemporary birds (made in 1961 or later). An entry in both categories is encouraged, and pairs count as a single entry.

Members should begin thinking about the decoys they want to enter now. Judges will select a “Best in Show” in both categories. This competition is sure to bring lots of fantastic looking birds to the table. Contest entries will be on display until early afternoon on Saturday in the Grand Ballroom for all attendees to admire.



Callmakers Club Comes to Lombard

The Callmakers and Collectors Association of America (CCAA) will once again hold their annual meeting at the 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, 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.

MEMBER PROFILE:

Ryan Graves:



NORTH AMERICAN
Decoy Collectors
ASSOCIATION



Ryan Graves doing
what he loves

COLLECTING THROUGH PERSISTENCE, HARD WORK, AND PASSION

That Ryan Graves has assembled such a remarkable collection of waterfowling-related artifacts is both predictable and astonishing. On one hand, nearly every chapter of his life has been shaped by duck hunting. On the other, his chosen profession—far removed from wealth or leisure—would seem to preclude the pursuit of anything beyond modest collecting. Ryan jokes, “I couldn’t find anyone willing to pay me to hunt ducks for a living, so I became a schoolteacher.”

Ryan grew up in Marion, Illinois, once celebrated as “the goose hunting capital of the world.” Hunting was a way of life there, and he spent nearly every free moment as a teenager in the swamp with friends, chasing ducks. He later chose to attend Western Illinois University in Macomb largely for its proximity to the legendary hunting grounds of the Illinois River. Through a mutual friend and fellow duck club member, he met his wife, Katie, whom Ryan insists is a saint. Today, Ryan, Katie, and their two sons, Eli and Harper, live in Mayfield, Kentucky—just 30 miles east of the Mississippi River, one of North America’s great waterfowl-ing corridors. In every sense, Ryan has lived a life deeply rooted in duck hunting, pursuing waterfowl across the United States, Canada, and Argentina.

The Collector

Collecting runs in Ryan’s blood. His mother is an avid collector



Charles Grubbs Display: Calls, Advertising Pieces, Rare Bluebill Decoy



Charles Perdew Mallards, Henry, IL, ca. 1940



Charles Walker Mallard, Princeton, IL, ca. 1940



Charles Perdew Pintails, Henry, IL, ca. 1940s



George Sibley Bluebill, Whitehall, MI, ca. 1920

of Americana, while his father focuses on vintage automobiles and Winchester shotguns. It was only natural that Ryan would develop similar instincts. As a child, he collected baseball cards, saving money from mowing lawns to purchase higher-quality vintage examples rather than contemporary issues. This early commitment to “quality over quantity” became the foundation of his collecting philosophy.

Ryan’s passion for sporting artifacts was sparked in 1996 when his father gave him an old Ken Martin goose call. Not long after, Ryan moved that call—along with a Pascagoula factory mallard hen decoy that had long been displayed in his family’s living room—into his bedroom. Captivated by their aesthetic and historical presence, he began actively seeking vintage calls and decoys.

Immersion Begins

Describing himself as having “champagne taste on a beer budget,” Ryan quickly realized that education—not capital—would be his greatest advantage. His approach was methodical and disciplined, reflecting his background as an educator. He understood early on that knowledge would be the key to acquiring truly significant pieces.

Ryan began by building a library of collector reference books, reading voraciously about duck calls and decoys. Volumes on Mason, Illinois River, and Mississippi Flyway decoys soon filled his shelves. In 1996, he acquired “Duck Calls of Illinois” by Robert Christensen, a book that would profoundly shape his future. In 2009, he purchased several important vintage calls on eBay with the intention of reselling them. While he recognized



Perdew Display

the makers, he was uncertain of their true value. Hesitant but determined, he reached out to Christensen, who not only offered guidance but also introduced Ryan to fellow collectors. A close friendship followed—one that endures to this day.



Joe Lincoln Yellowlegs, Accord, MA, ca. 1900

During his research, Christensen had put together an extensive archive of correspondence, catalogs, articles, and ephemera. Eventually, he entrusted this invaluable body of material to Ryan. Building on this treasure trove of information, Ryan has assembled one of the most comprehensive collections of duck call research and documentation in existence, with plans to do the same for decoys.

While Ryan's expertise in calls is widely recognized, he readily admits that he is still learning about decoys. He credits seasoned collectors Dick McIntyre, Joe Tonelli, Hugh Chatham, and Dave Kneebone with mentoring



Robert Elliston Pintail, Bureau, IL, ca. 1890s



Lou Kelly Pintail, Peoria, IL, ca. 1930

him in areas ranging from paint and condition to repairs, authenticity, and trust.

Ryan also possesses an invaluable asset – a photographic memory. He rarely forgets a conversation, image, or passage from a book, allowing him to instantly draw upon decades of accumulated knowledge.

Building the Collections

Unlike many novice collectors, Ryan resisted the temptation to buy indiscriminately. Instead, he focused on historically important pieces in honest, original condition—particularly early examples that shaped the future of the craft.

With limited financial means, Ryan spent his first decade collecting by buying and selling strategically, reinvesting the profits to buy better and better things. He credits eBay as an essential tool, allowing him to buy and sell quickly using more accurate descriptions and informed pricing.

His commitment was relentless. Ryan estimates that he logged more than 200,000 miles in his Honda Civic chasing artifacts throughout the Midwest. Though he doesn't recommend it, his mantra was often, "Buy first and worry about how to pay for it later." He admits to taking substantial risks, including maxing out multiple credit cards to secure pieces he believed were irreplaceable. Often times the pressure was immense to sell out in order to get out of debt but Ryan believed his perseverance would pay off. With a wry smile, he jokes that although the credit card debt is now gone, he remains perpetually broke—still unable to pass on something truly exceptional.

The Call Collection

Through years of study, risk, and perseverance, Ryan has assembled one of the finest and most comprehensive vintage duck call collections in the country—without the financial advantages



Tom Turpin, Memphis, TN



Phillip Olt, South Pekin, IL, ca. 1940s

enjoyed by many collectors. His focus has been on premier calls from Illinois, Tennessee, Missouri, and Arkansas, including examples by the Glodo family, J.T. Beckhart, Charles Perdew, Charles Grubbs, Tom Turpin, and Perry Hooker, among others.

What truly distinguishes the collection is the context Ryan provides. A self-made historian, he has curated his collection as a narrative rather than a display of isolated objects. His den features carefully designed vignettes

highlighting individual makers and their contributions.

One display centers on Charles Grubbs of Senachwine, Illinois, widely regarded as one of the earliest pioneers of modern duck calls. It includes multiple Grubbs calls, among them the famed "Illinois River Duck Call," the earliest known commercially marketed duck call dating to 1868, along with late 19th century promotional material, as well as a rare Grubbs bluebill decoy.

Another vignette highlights Charles Perdew, featuring several calls, associated ephemera, and an exceptional Perdew mallard drake in Charlie paint. Also included is a VL&A call long attributed to Perdew but now correctly identified as the work of Arkansas maker James Beckhart.

Wall-mounted shelves organize calls by maker and region, including a grouping of calls by the Glodo family of Southern Illinois and the Reelfoot Lake region of West Tennessee—credited with



Top Row Victor Glodo, Glodo Family, Victor Glodo Hornbeak model, John Nicholas Glodo. Bottom Row Joseph Glodo, Victor Glodo, Albert Glodo, Glodo Family



developing the iconic Reelfoot call and its distinctive checkering pattern. Ryan places the Glodo family alongside Virginia's Cobb family in terms of historical significance and influence. Among his most prized pieces is an early call ca. 1890s by Victor Glodo, widely regarded as the father of American duck calls.

The Decoy Collection

Ryan readily acknowledges that his decoy collection remains a

work in progress. While he has always collected decoys, they were often the first things sold to fund call acquisitions. His primary focus is on Illinois River birds, featuring strong examples by Charles Walker, Robert Elliston, Bert Graves, and Charles Perdew.

He also appreciates outstanding work beyond Illinois, particularly by folk artists such as the Caines Brothers, Ira Hudson, Duncan Ducharme, Ned Burgess, and the

Cobb family, while also admiring the refined craftsmanship of carvers like the Ward Brothers and Elmer Crowell. Ryan dreams of someday owning a Nathan Cobb decoy but admits that, absent a miracle, it may remain just that—a dream.

One of his most memorable decoy collecting stories occurred during the 2016–2017 duck season, when an older friend mentioned that he had an old decoy with a weight marked "Perdew." Expecting a repainted example, Ryan didn't see a need to rush to see it. When he finally visited after the season, he was stunned to find a pair of Perdew mallards in original paint, along with several Perdew miniatures.

When asked if there was anything else, the owner casually mentioned a few items on a shelf in the living room. Turning the corner, Ryan was confronted with two Charles Walker pintail drakes, an early Perdew pintail in original



Unknown maker, IL,
ca. 1890s



Claude Stone,
Senath, MO,
ca. 1920



Duncan Taylor,
Chandlerville, IL,
ca. 1900



James Beckhart,
Big Lake, AR,
ca. 1900



John "Sandy"
Morrow, Holcomb,
MO, ca. 1900



Charles Grubbs, Lake
Senachwine, IL, known
as the "Improved Illi-
nois River Duck Call"
and is one of the earli-
est historically signifi-
cant calls that exists

Edna paint, several Charles Walker mallards, some other Illinois River birds, and a small group of vintage calls. His jaw dropped. Though the owner wished to sell, Ryan wasn't in a position to purchase the collection himself. Instead, he arranged to consign the birds to Guyette and Deeter, where they were sold in their April and July 2017 auctions. Ryan notes—only half-jokingly—that if the owners of those Walker and Perdew pin-tails ever want to sell, he would welcome the opportunity.

Other Collectibles

Beyond calls and decoys, Ryan has assembled an impressive collection of pre-1950 waterfowling artifacts. His collection room includes Parker shotguns, Wisconsin gunning boxes, push poles, powder tins, an early punt gun, shot dispensers, photographs, paintings, periodicals, and a raft of other historically significant waterfowling literature.

Among the most distinctive pieces are two extraordinary lamps crafted by unexpected hands. One is a one-of-a-kind floor lamp carved by Charles Perdew, featuring a VL&A-style barrel, intricate detailing, and carved turtle heads forming the feet of the base. The other is a 1940s lamp by Clyde Hancock of Stuttgart, Arkansas, carved in the form of one of his iconic duck calls.



One-of-a-Kind Perdew Lamp

Contributions to the Hobby

Ryan's willingness to share his knowledge, combined with his depth of research, has made him one of the most trusted authorities on vintage duck calls in the country. As such, he plays a vital role in preserving the legacy of these important artifacts. He has authored articles on early call makers for Mossy Oak and the Call Collectors Association of America, regularly assists collectors in building world-class collections, and consults with auction houses, insurance companies, and estate attorneys to ensure accurate attribution and valuation.



Perdew Lamp Detail



Perdew Lamp Base



Clyde Hancock Lamp, Stuttgart, AR

We thank Ryan for sharing his story and for his generous, selfless contributions to the waterfowling collecting community. He can be reached at rkegraves@gmail.com.

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Reserve Your Show Tables Now!

To reserve your tables for the Friday-Saturday show, fill out the Table Reservation Form on the next page and return it, along with your check, no later than March 15, 2026. (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 reserve and pay for your tables online at nadecoycollectors.org. Just click on the "Join or Renew Now" tab on the home page.**

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, 2026

- \$100 per table for reservation and payment after March 15, 2026

Grand Ballroom Set-Up Time

Set-up will start on Friday morning at 9am. The doors will be open at 11am 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.

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

Checks should be made payable to the NADCA.

Amount

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

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

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