



CONTEMPORARY DECOY EXHIBITION

9 am – 4 pm SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018
IBEW Hall, 370 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, NY

INFORMATION for CARVERS

PURPOSE

The Contemporary Decoy Exhibition is intended to provide a venue on Long Island for those decoys that will become the collectible antique decoys of the future. Just as Shang Wheeler was recognized for his exceptional craftsmanship and talents at the original National Decoy Show in 1923, LIDCA hopes to showcase the talents and works of decoy carvers who are working today.

The Exhibition also strives for simplicity. We want it to be simple for both the carvers and for the viewing public. Thus, we offer only 2 classes and no tank-testing. Novice and professional carvers will compete together. Decoys will be displayed on tables and judging will be done by a 3-judge panel and by the public.

Each entry will be recognized with a certificate from LIDCA. Cash prizes – with funds from the Entry Fees - will be awarded only to the two highest-scoring birds, one *Best in Show* from each class. All entries will be photographed and posted on the LIDCA website following the Show.



RULES

Skill Level ~ All carvers - from Novice to Professional - will compete together.

Classes ~ Two classes honor long traditions of decoy-making. Each Carver will decide which category best fits his or her decoy(s). However, prior to judging, LIDCA officials will be available for consultation and will override the Carver's decision if necessary to maintain the intent of the Exhibition.

Al McCormick Gunning Class will show the simpler, more durable decoys – typical gunning stool. Al was "Mr. Decoy" for decades on Long Island and taught scores of gunners to make their own rigs – especially of Black Ducks, Broadbill and Brant. So, these decoys – including bills, crests, wingtips or tails - should withstand rough handling. **Paint jobs should be readily duplicated with minimal instruction** and consistent with the advice from Eugene Connett's *Duck Shooting Along the Atlantic Tidewater*: "Remember that it is not the so much the appearance of the bird in the hand but the effect of a half-gunshot off that counts".

Species ~ Decoys in the **Al McCormick Gunning Class** must be one of these 5 species:

Brant
Black Duck
Broadbill
Whistler (Common Goldeneye)
Sheldrake (Red-breasted Merganser)

Shang Wheeler Heritage Class will show the **more elaborate and stylized decoys**. These *decoys* – *not* super-detailed carvings with no practical use in the field, i.e., not "floating decoratives" – **will have more careful carving and paint jobs possible only by skilled and experienced hands**. Postures can be unusual for decoys but must be floatable. These decoys will honor the traditions of Elmer Crowell and the Ward Brothers, for example, but could also include replicas of true antique decoys.

Species ~ Decoys in the **Shang Wheeler Heritage Class** must be one of these species:

Canada Goose	Mallard	Canvasback	Hooded Merganser
Brant	Black Duck	Redhead	Common Merganser
	Northern Pintail	Greater Scaup	Red-breasted Merganser
	Green-winged Teal	Lesser Scaup	Common Eider
	Blue-winged Teal	Ring-necked Duck	Oldsquaw
	Northern Shoveler	Ruddy Duck	White-winged Scoter
	American Wigeon	Bufflehead	Surf Scoter
	Gadwall	Common Goldeneye	Black Scoter
	Wood Duck		

Materials ~ There is no restriction on materials used in decoys in either category. Just as carvers have long used "found materials" such as refrigerator cork or life-raft balsa, carvers are free to use any wood, cork, plastic, leather, metal, flocking, et cetera. Decoys carved then molded *by the carver* are acceptable, but only eyes and hardware may be factory-made.

Size ~ Decoys should be life-size or oversize.

Details ~ There is no restriction on the level of detail but carvers should use common sense to avoid details that clearly exceed the traditions of either class. For example, wings raised off the body and vulnerable to breakage should be avoided. Texturing of individual feathers should also be avoided.

Features ~ Each decoy should have a means of attaching an anchor line (but no line or anchor is required). Each decoy should also bear the permanent identification of the carver - which will be covered with masking tape during the Exhibition.

Quantity ~ Each Carver may enter no more than one drake and one hen per species in each class.



Note #1: The public will be permitted to handle both McCormick and Wheeler decoys so that they may inspect them from any aspect – under the supervision of LIDCA staff. The public will be advised to handle them carefully but neither the public nor LIDCA will be responsible for minor damage such as paint scuffing or scratching – the sort of damage that might occur during hunting use.

Note # 2: Decoys must be carved since the 2016 Contemporary Decoy Exhibition (27 February 2016).

JUDGING

Because the People's Choice judging at the 2016 Exhibition was compromised by voting irregularities that were unfair to carvers, the public and LIDCA members, judging in 2018 will be accomplished in two ways.

Panel of Judges ~ A 3-judge panel will be assembled of experienced waterfowl hunters who are not also carvers. The panel will determine winners in each Species and Class and also Best-in-Show for each class. They will select Best-in-Show decoys from among the First Place winners in each Species. They will base their deliberations on the written rules for each Class.

Peoples' Choice ~ Each Adult (public, vendors and LIDCA members) will receive a ballot when they pay their General Admission Fee to the Show. Peoples' Choice ballots will include two opportunities to vote: each voter can vote for their single favorite decoy from among all species in the *Al McCormick Gunning Decoy Class* and also for their single favorite decoy from among all species in the *Shang Wheeler Heritage Decoy Class*. To avoid "ballot stuffing", ballots will be individually-numbered. If voters do not wish to participate, they will be instructed to NOT give their ballots to anyone else and to destroy (tear in half) any such ballots.

AWARDS

Each decoy that is entered will be awarded a *Certificate of Appreciation* from LIDCA.

~ The *McCormick* and *Wheeler Best-in-Show* decoys will be awarded ribbons at the Show; cash prizes will be mailed subsequently.

~ The *McCormick* and *Wheeler Peoples' Choice* decoys will be also awarded ribbons at the Show.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Each decoy will be photographed at the Show. A portrait of each will be posted on the LIDCA website for at least one year. At the Carver's request, contact information can be included in the posting.

ENTRY

Fees ~ The Entry Fee for each decoy will be \$5.00 for the first bird and \$3.00 for each additional bird.

Day of Show ~ All hand-carried decoys must be entered between 8:00 and 9:30. All entrants (other than LIDCA members) must pay the General Admission Fee for the Show.

Mail – Mail entries to:
Mary Meyer
39 Manor Lane
East Hampton, NY 11937
Att'n: LIDCA

Mailed entries must be received between Monday, February 19, 2018 and Thursday, March 1, 2018.

Each mailed entry must include a completed *Entry Form* and a check for the Entry Fees plus Return Postage (including insurance). Each decoy must be insured both ways.

