



CONTEMPORARY DECOY EXHIBITION

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

INFORMATION for CARVERS ~ REVISED OCTOBER 2017

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. Decoys will be displayed on tables and judging will be done by 3-judge panels.

Ribbons will be awarded for the best decoys in each category. Cash prizes – a portion of the funds from the Entry Fees - will be awarded only to the two *Best in Show* birds, one from each class.



RULES

Skill Level ~ All carvers will compete together within each class.

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 and Broadbill. 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:

Atlantic Brant
Black Duck
Broadbill (Greater Scaup)
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 antique decoys.

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

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

Materials ~ There is no restriction on materials used in decoys in either class. Only eyes and hardware may be factory-made.

Size ~ Decoys should be life-size or oversize.

Details ~ *Al McCormick Gunning Class* ~ Carved bill details are acceptable but no individual feathers or feather groups should be carved. Wingtips (primary groups) may be raised off the body but must be fully supported and not vulnerable to breakage. Texturing with brush or comb is acceptable but stoning and burning are prohibited.

Details ~ *Shang Wheeler Heritage Class* ~ There is no restriction on the level of carving detail. Texturing with brush or comb is acceptable but stoning and burning are prohibited.

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 (single birds in Geese & Brant).



Note ~ Each decoy must be carved since the *2016 Contemporary Decoy Exhibition* (27 February 2016).

JUDGING

Judging Panels ~ For the *Al McCormick Gunning Class*, one 3-judge panel will be assembled of experienced waterfowl hunters. The panel will determine winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention) in each of the 5 species and will select the Best-in-Show decoy from among the First Place winners in each species. The judges will base their deliberations on the written rules for this Class.

For the *Shang Wheeler Heritage Class*, one 3-judge panel will be assembled of experienced waterfowl hunters who are also experienced carvers. The panel will determine winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention) in each of the 4 species groups (Goose & Brant, Puddle Ducks, Diving Ducks, Sea Ducks) and will select the Best-in-Show decoy from among the First Place winners in each species group. The judges will base their deliberations on the written rules for this Class.

AWARDS

Ribbons ~ The winning (1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention) *McCormick* and *Wheeler* decoys will be awarded ribbons at the Show.

Cash ~ The cash prizes will be mailed to the *Best-in-Show* winners subsequently.

PHOTOGRAPHS

~ The winning *McCormick* and *Wheeler* decoys will be photographed and subsequently published on the LIDCA website (lidecoycollectors.org).

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 AM. All entrants (other than LIDCA members) must pay the General Admission Fee for the Show.

Mail – Mail entries to:
Jim Hunt
9 Stephen's Path
Port Jefferson, NY 11777
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.



CONTACT

If you need additional information, please call (do not text!) Exhibition Chairman **Jim Hunt** at **631-928-5920**