



## The Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild

will be hosting it's **Fourteenth Annual Decoy Competition** on **September 16 & 17, 2017**. This event will take place at the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Center and will be open to:

1. **True Hunting,**
2. **Traditional Style and**
3. **Contemporary Style Waterfowl Decoys.**

It is our goal to keep the history of the Traditional Gunning Decoy as accurate as possible, so there will be three Gunning Decoy Divisions, True Hunting, Traditional Style and Contemporary Style, all life-size floating. (see rules for details)

### Other Categories:

1. **REST OF THE MARSH** - Any subject found in the marsh is eligible. (see rules for details). First, second and third place ribbons only will be awarded.
2. **STYLIZED REPRESENTATIONS OF THE MARSH** – (see rules for details). First, second and third place ribbons only will be awarded.
3. **NEW - NON-FLOATING DECORATIVE PUDDLE OR DIVING DUCK CARVINGS** - First, Second and Third place ribbons ~~and One Best of Show ribbon for this category~~ only will be awarded

### Purchase Awards

1. The **Oak Hammock Interpretive Centre** will again be offering a purchase award for a Traditional or Contemporary Style **American Coot, Wood Duck** (Hen or Drake), or **Pied-billed Grebe**. First Prize \$500  
(Oak Hammock Interpretive Centre retains ownership of the First Place Decoy)
2. **Oak Hammock Carving Guild Purchase Award sponsored by Richard Whittom** will be offering purchase award for a **carved duck head mounted on a base**. First Prize \$200. (Award sponsor retains ownership of the First Place carving)
3. The **Rod Fowler Memorial Purchase Award** for a contemporary shorebird (**Carvers Choice**)  
Sponsored by Russ Muth  
First Prize \$200; Second Prize \$50  
(Award sponsor retains ownership of the First Place carving)
4. The **Ross Gage Purchase Award** for an **antique style (with a distressed or antique finish) shorebird**. Sponsored by Ross Gage.  
First Prize \$200; Second Prize \$50  
(Award sponsor retains ownership of the First Place carving)
5. **"Shadow" Purchase Award** for a full size **song bird or other bird found in North America**. Carving to be mounted on a base.  
Sponsored by John Frye First Prize \$400.  
(Award sponsor retains ownership of the First Place carving)

### ENTRIES:

Entries will be accepted on **Saturday, September 16**, from **8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** at the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Center.

**For further information contact:**

Ross Gage @ 204-895-4723 Email: [rossgage@mts.net](mailto:rossgage@mts.net) ,

Richard Whittom Email: [RWhittom@mymts.net](mailto:RWhittom@mymts.net)

John Frye @ 204-888-8272 (eve.). Email: [M.Frye@umanitoba.ca](mailto:M.Frye@umanitoba.ca), or

Cathy Wasserman @ the marsh 204-467-3300 Email: [c\\_wasserman@ducks.ca](mailto:c_wasserman@ducks.ca).

**Scope of Competition**

This competition is held for gunning type decoys. All entries will be judged in natural water habitat. Shore bird decoys will also be floated when appropriate. Standing shorebirds will be judged in the standing position.

There will be three levels of entry, true hunting, traditional gunning style and contemporary gunning style decoys.

Registration will take place on **Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am**

Judging begins Saturday at 10:00 am

Mail in entries are permitted. (see information on mail in entries)

**General Rules**

1. Decoys may be made from wood, cork or stretched canvas.
2. All entries must be the sole work of the entrant.
3. All entries must be signed and dated in an indelible fashion.
4. All entries must be registered on or before 10:00 am Saturday September 16, 2017.
5. All entries must remain at the competition site until 3:00 pm September 17, 2017
6. Entries must be of a species found in North America.
7. Entries should be life size.
8. Judging categories will be comprised of the following:
  - a) True Hunting Decoy Division
  - b) Traditional Gunning Style Decoy Division,
  - c) Contemporary Gunning Style Decoy Division,
  - d) Purchase Awards (5).
  - e) Rest of the Marsh
  - f) Stylized Representations of the Marsh
  - g) Non-floating decorative diving or puddle duck

There will be four categories in each division:

- i) diving ducks
  - ii) puddle ducks
  - iii) geese/swans
  - iv) shorebird
9. Judges decisions are final.
  10. Entry fees will be \$10.00 for the first entry and \$5.00 for each additional entry. The entry fee for each of the Purchase Awards is \$15.00.

**Skill Level Definitions**

Carvers who have never competed at any competition must choose a skill level at which they will compete. The competition includes 3 skill levels: **Novice**, **Intermediate** and **Open**.

- Junior:** Individuals who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by the start date of the competition and who have not entered any other skill level
- Novice:** Beginning carvers are encouraged to enter at this level..
- Intermediate:** Carvers who have won 4 Show Awards at the Novice Level (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> Best of Show).
- Open:** Carvers who have won 4 Best of Show at the Intermediate Level (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> Best of Show).

Best of Show includes 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place. When a carver wins 4 Best of Show in any competition, he/she must advance to the next level within one year or at our next competition. **(A first second or third Best of Show placements counts as Best of Show Win)**. A carver can elect at any time to move up in levels, but any carver who advances voluntarily cannot move back.

## True Hunting Decoy Division

This decoy must represent a true working decoy in all aspects of painting and construction. It is a decoy that may be described as one that is specifically carved to be hunted over and therefore appearance in the water when viewed from a distance is paramount. Equally important is the durability of the decoy. If damaged, the decoy should be easy to repair and repaint as required.

### **Construction:**

1. This decoy will be sturdily constructed from wood, cork or canvas.
2. Head may be screwed or dowelled to the body.
3. Construction will be judged in hand.

### **Carving:**

1. Carving is limited to the general shape of the bird and carved detail is therefore to be limited. (Details that may make the decoy less durable or are not easily repaired are discouraged and may be considered a negative when the decoy is judged.)

### **Painting:**

1. The decoy  painted in oils  to the basic color pattern to represent that particular species.
2. Painting and finish must be durable, simple and easily repaired. Any decoy that loses paint, checks or cracks will be disqualified. Minimum blending and combing will be permitted.
3. Eyes can be glass, tacks or painted

### **Judging:**

1. Judging will be carried out at a distance no more than 30 yards and no closer than 10 yards
2. All decoys (except non floating shorebirds) will be floated and must have facility for anchor line attachment. A 4-6 feet of anchor line with an appropriate anchor are required to be attached to floating decoy. **Decoys must self-right when thrown from the canoe.**
3. Floating shorebirds decoys will be floated. Standing birds must be mounted on a dowel or on wire legs.

## Traditional Gunning Style Decoy Division

This decoy represents the evolution of the true gunning decoy. It is a decoy that may be described as one that is **still specifically carved to be hunted over**, however, the trend over the years for carvers to introduce more detail into the carving is recognized in this division. Appearance in the water when viewed from a distance is still paramount as is the durability of the decoy. However, some additional carving and painting detail as described below are considered when the decoy is judged in hand.

### **Construction:**

1. Decoys must be made from wood, cork or stretched canvas.
2. Head may be screwed or dowelled to the body.
3. Construction must be sturdy, practical and suitable for use as a hunting decoy.
4. All decoys (except non floating shorebirds) will be floated and must have facility for anchor line attachment. A 4-5 feet of anchor line with an appropriate anchor are required to be attached to floating decoys.

### **Carving:**

1. Limited details such as mandible separation and nostril holes will be permitted. **Primary flight feather groups may be carved.** Added detail will carry no weight in the decision of the overall quality

### **Painting:**

1. Painted, tack & glass eyes are acceptable
2. Paints may be oil or acrylic.
3. Painting and finishing must be durable, **simple\*** and easily repaired. Any decoy that loses paint, checks or cracks will be disqualified.
4. Stippling and combing will be permitted

#### **Definition of simple painting:**

**\* Minor blending is permissible on the head and major feather groups (primary secondary, tertial and sidepockets). Individual feathers may be outlined only. (primary secondary, tertial and sidepockets). Painted splits are permissible to define a feather group**

### **Judging:**

1. Judging on the water will be carried out from a distance of 30 feet to reflect the overall character of the decoy species. Construction will be judged in hand.
2. Decoys must self-right **when thrown from the canoe.** Geese & Swans must self-right from their side.
3. Floating shorebird decoys will be floated. Standing shorebirds must be mounted on a dowel or on wire legs.

## Contemporary Gunning Style Decoy Division

### **Construction:**

1. Decoys may be made of wood, cork or stretched canvas.
2. Construction must be sturdy and suitable for use as a hunting decoy.
3. All decoys (except non floating shorebirds) will be floated and must have facility for anchor line attachment.
4. 4-5 feet of anchor line with an appropriate anchor are required to be attached to the decoy.

### **Carving:**

1. **Some** carving detail is permitted, i.e. feather groups - tertials, scapulars or bill detail. Individual feather burning, and/or carving is not permitted.

### **Painting:**

1. Paints must be durable. Decoys losing paint, checks or splits will be disqualified
2. Painting techniques shall be typical of a modern functional (decoy that would attract ducks) decoy. Detailed painting and finishing of individual feathers or feather groups is acceptable and can include, but is not limited to, such things as feather edges, splits and hand vermiculation.

### **Judging:**

1. Judging will be carried out from a distance of 30 feet to reflect the overall character of the decoy species. Construction will be judged in hand.
2. Floating shorebird decoys will be floated. Standing shorebirds must be mounted on a dowel or on wire legs.
3. Decoys must self-right **when thrown from the canoe**. Geese, swans must self-right from their side.

## Rest of the Marsh

1. Any subject found in the marsh is eligible.
2. Leg extensions and outstretched wings have no limitations.
3. Carving and painting have no limitations.

## Stylized Representations of the Marsh

1. Any stylized presentation will be welcome of any medium.
2. No limitation on size or finish

## NEW - NON-FLOATING DECORATIVE PUDDLE OR DIVING DUCK CARVINGS

1. Entries must be full bodied
2. Full detailing and painting is the standard

## Purchase Awards

1. **The Oak Hammock Purchase** Traditional or Contemporary Style **American Coot, Wood Duck** (Hen or Drake), or **Pied-billed Grebe**
2. **The Oak Hammock Carving Guild Purchase Award** is for a duck head only mounted on a base. As much or as little detail as the carver wants, painted in oil or acrylic. The first place carving becomes the property of the award sponsor.
3. **The Rod Fowler Memorial Purchase Award** is for a contemporary shorebird (**Carvers Choice**). There are no restrictions on painting. There is to be no individual feather carving, however, feather groups can be displayed. None floating. The first place carving becomes the property of the award sponsor.
4. **The Ross Gage Purchase Award** for an antique style (with a distressed or antique finish) shorebird sponsored by Ross Gage. The first place carving becomes the property of the award sponsor
5. **“Shadow” Purchase Award** – for a full size **song bird or other bird found in North America** sponsored by John Frye.. Carving to be mounted on a base. The first place carving becomes the property of the award sponsor.

## **50/50 Sale Table !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

This note is a reminder that at our annual Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild Competition and Show we will be having a 50/50 sale table.

- Carvers set the price for their carving
- If sold 50% of sale price goes to the carver and 50% to Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild

**Your participation would be greatly appreciated.**

## Awards and Judging Procedure

Decoys will be judged and accorded recognition according to the skill level (i.e. Novice will be judged against Novice, etc.). One level will not be judged against another. Each skill level within each division will be judged in three stages; i) Best in Category, ii) Best in Division iii) Best in Show. Ribbons will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> positions

Each Division is judged separately. Decoys are first judged and ranked by Division, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> places will be awarded. The 1<sup>st</sup> place Best of Division winner is selected from all of the 1<sup>st</sup> place winners of the categories. The judge/judges then set this carving aside. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked carving from the same category will replace it. This piece will be judged along with all the other 1<sup>st</sup> place winners. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place Best of Division winner will now be replaced by the next ranking carving from the same category and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place Best of Division winner is selected.

Once all of the Best of Divisions have been awarded, the same procedure is followed to rank the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place Best of Show. The same procedure is followed for Novice, Intermediate and Open. This procedure allows an outstanding 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place carving to be judged ahead of a 1<sup>st</sup> place carving in another category, which makes judging truly equitable.

**Please note: This is a competition and judges have the authority to change judging criteria to keep the level of competition at it's highest (i.e.; combining classes or divisions etc).** The judging criteria will be based on craftsmanship, accuracy, essence of the species, originality artistry and durability. **JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**

## Mail in instructions

All decoys must be wrapped for protection in a suitable container to allow repackaging by return mail.

Adequate insurance must be obtained for all packages.

The Carving Guild will not be responsible for damaged items.

**Mail Address:** Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Center  
Attn: Cathy Wasserman  
Box 1160  
Stonewall MB R0C 2Z0  
Phone 204-467-3300

**Released:** \_\_\_\_\_