



The Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild

will be hosting its **Fifteenth Annual Decoy Competition** on **September 22 & 23, 2018**. This event will take place at the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Center

It is our goal to keep the history of the Traditional Gunning Decoy as accurate as possible. There will be three **Gunning Decoy Divisions: True Hunting, Traditional Style and Contemporary Style**, all life-size floating, all competing for Best of Show (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. **NON-FLOATING DECORATIVE PUDDLE OR DIVING DUCK CARVINGS** - First, second and third place ribbons 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 **Ruddy Duck**. 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 a 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 – Full or Half Size) 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 half-sized to full-sized **songbird 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)
6. **New for 2018 - Single Water Fowl Feather Purchase Award** for the best life-size waterfowl bird feather – Sponsored by Carrie Braden. First Prize \$100.00. (Award sponsor retains ownership of the First Place carving)

ENTRIES:

Entries will be accepted on **Saturday, September 22, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** at the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Center. As well, mail in entries are permitted

Mail in instructions

1. All decoys must be wrapped for protection in a suitable container to allow repackaging by return mail.
2. Adequate insurance must be obtained for all packages.
3. The Carving Guild will not be responsible for damaged items.
4. Please allow enough delivery time for your entries to be received prior to the show.

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

For further information contact:

Ross Gage @ 204-895-4723 Email: rossgage@mts.net ,
Richard Whittom Email: RWhittom@mymts.net
John Frye @ 204-888-8272 (eve.). Email: M.Frye@umanitoba.ca, or
Cathy Wasserman @ the marsh 204-467-3300 Email: c_wasserman@ducks.ca.

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**, as well as one age level - Junior

Junior: Individuals who have not reached their 18th 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 Best of Show Awards at the Novice Level (1st, 2nd, or 3rd Best of Show).

Open: Carvers who have won 4 Best of Show at the Intermediate Level (1st, 2nd, or 3rd Best of Show).

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 placement counts as a 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.

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.

General Rules

- 1) All entries must be the sole work of the entrant.
- 2) All entries must be signed and dated in an indelible fashion.
- 3) All entries must be registered on or before 10:00 am Saturday September 22, 2018.
- 4) All entries must remain at the competition site until 3:00 pm September 23, 2018
- 5) Entries must be of a species found in North America.
- 6) Entries should be life size. Exceptions - Rod Fowler Purchase Award which may be half size or life size, Shadow Purchase Award which may be anywhere from half-sized to life-sized.
- 7) Judging categories will be comprised of the following:
 - a) True Hunting Decoy Division
 - i) diving ducks
 - ii) puddle ducks
 - iii) geese/swans
 - iv) shorebirds
 - b) Traditional Gunning Style Decoy Division,
 - i) diving ducks
 - ii) puddle ducks
 - iii) geese/swans
 - iv) shorebirds
 - c) Contemporary Gunning Style Decoy Division,
 - i) diving ducks
 - ii) puddle ducks
 - iii) geese/swans
 - iv) shorebirds
 - d) Purchase Awards (6)
 - e) Rest of the Marsh
 - f) Stylized Representations of the Marsh
 - g) Non-floating decorative diving or puddle duck
- 8) Judging begins Saturday at 10:00 am. All Judges decisions are final.
- 9) 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.

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 must be **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, carved or painted

Judging:

1. All entries will be judged in natural water habitat.
2. Judging will be carried out at a distance no more than 30 yards and no closer than 10 yards
3. All decoys (except non floating shorebirds) will be floated and must have facility for anchor line attachment. An anchor line of 4-6 feet, with an appropriate anchor, is required to be attached to the floating decoy. **Decoys must self-right when thrown from the canoe.**
4. 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.
5. 4-5 feet of anchor line, with an appropriate anchor, is required to be attached to floating decoys.

Carving:

1. Limited details such as mandible separation and nostril holes will be permitted.
2. **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 side pockets). Individual feathers may be outlined only (primary, secondary, tertial and side pockets). Painted splits are permissible to define a feather group**

Judging:

1. All entries will be judged in natural water habitat.
2. 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.
3. **Decoys must self-right when thrown from the canoe.** Geese & Swans must self-right from their side.
4. 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, is 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. All entries will be judged in natural water habitat.
2. 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.
3. Floating shorebird decoys will be floated. Standing shorebirds must be mounted on a dowel or on wire legs.
4. **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

Non-floating Decorative Puddle or Diving Duck Carvings

1. Entries may be full bodied or flat bottomed
2. Full detailing and painting is the standard

Purchase Award Rules and Criteria

1. **The Oak Hammock Purchase** Traditional or Contemporary Style **American Coot, Wood Duck** (Hen or Drake), or **Ruddy Duck**. The first place carving becomes the property of the award sponsor.
2. **The Oak Hammock Carving Guild Purchase Award** is for a duck head mounted on a base. A small portion of breast may be included. 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 – full or half size**). There are no restrictions on painting. There is to be no individual feather carving, however, feather groups can be displayed. Non-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. The first place carving becomes the property of the award sponsor
5. **“Shadow” Purchase Award** – for a songbird or other bird found in North America (**carver’s choice - scale from half-sized to full sized**). Carving to be mounted on a base. The first place carving becomes the property of the award sponsor.
6. **Single Waterfowl Feather Purchase Award** for the best life-size waterfowl bird feather. The feather may or may not be mounted on a base. The first place carving becomes the property of the award sponsor.

Awards and Judging Procedure

Decoys will be judged and accorded recognition within each 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 of Show. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions

Each Division is judged separately. Decoys are first judged and ranked by Category, 1st, 2nd & 3rd places will be awarded. The 1st place Best of Division winner is selected from all of the 1st place winners of the categories. The judge/judges then set this carving aside. The 2nd ranked carving from the same category will replace it. This piece will be judged along with all the other 1st place winners. The 2nd place Best of Division winner will now be replaced by the next ranking carving from the same category and the 3rd 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 1st, 2nd & 3rd place Best of Show. This procedure is followed for Novice, Intermediate and Open. This procedure allows an outstanding 2nd or 3rd place carving to be judged ahead of a 1st 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.