



The Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild

will be hosting its **Seventeenth Annual Decoy Competition** on **September 16 & 17, 2023**. 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 two **Gunning Decoy Divisions: Traditional Hunting/Working 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: bird, duck not life-sized, mammal/critter or fish; found in and around the marsh is eligible. (See rules for details). First, second and third place ribbons only will be awarded.
2. **STYLIZED REPRESENTATIONS OF THE MARSH** – Any subject: bird, duck, mammal/critter or fish; found in and around the marsh is eligible; natural finish, interpretive, rusty-nail shorebirds, and peeps (see rules for details). First, second and third place ribbons only will be awarded.
3. **NON-FLOATING DECORATIVE DUCKS – LIFE-SIZED** First, second and third place ribbons only will be awarded.
4. **VINTAGE DECOY CLASS** – not floated. Pristine or worn. Not to be a replica, but the carvers own design of an old-style decoy, perhaps one you would find as a mantlepiece. (See rules for details) First, second and third place ribbons only will be awarded.

Purchase Awards

1. **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)
2. **The Rod Fowler Memorial Purchase Award** for a **contemporary shorebird** (Carvers Choice – Full or Half Size) Sponsored by Russ Muth. First Prize \$250. (Award sponsor retains ownership of the First-Place carving)
3. The **Ross Gage Purchase Award** for an **antique-style shorebird decoy (pristine or worn/distressed finish)**. Sponsored by Ross Gage. First Prize \$250. (Award sponsor retains ownership of the First-Place carving)
4. **“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)
5. **Larry Vanderhyde Purchase Award** for best **cocktail bird, duck or decoy carving**. Sponsored by Susan Cowtan. Maximum size of the subject, excluding base, must fit into a four-inch cube. First Prize \$200. (Award sponsor retains ownership of the First-Place carving)

ENTRIES:

All competitors have the choice to

- **Drop-off** their carvings on Saturday, Sept. 16th between 8:00 and 10:00 AM at Oak Hammock Marsh Club House
- **or Mail-in (see below)**

MAIL TO:

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Center, Attn: Dustin Molinski
Box 1160
Stonewall, MB
R0C 2Z0
Phone 204-467-3300

Instructions:

1. Must be received by Sept. 12th, 2023
2. Entrants must include return postage with their mail-in entries, or arrange to pick up the entries at the specified day and time. When you mail your parcel at the post office, ask for a pre-paid postage sticker that you will include in your parcel.
3. Entrants must complete a **registration form – and include the applicable entry fees**
 - i. You may download a form from <http://prairiecanadacarvers.com/events/>
 - ii. The form is an official registration form. Your entry(s) will be numbered by the competition registrar who unpacks your box.
 - iii. Complete the form ensuring all information is completed and correct
 - iv. You must sign the form to authorize registration of your entries and compliance with all rules, guidelines, and waivers.
 - v. In an envelope, enclose the completed registration form, payment and return postage label.
 - vi. Carvings will be shipped to the owners no later than two weeks after the competition. Arrival times will vary depending on Canada Post or other delivery service that you use.
4. **Packing**
 - i. Use a rigid corrugated box large enough for carving(s) and cushioning materials.
 - ii. Wrap each carving separately using proper cushioning material such as bubble wrap.
 - iii. Each carving should be surrounded by at least two inches of cushioning and be placed at least two inches from inside wall of box. Use peanuts (bagged) or foam for loose fill to avoid shifting.
 - iv. Enclose envelope with entry form, payment and return postage label.
 - v. Seal box securely with packing tape.
 - vi. Purchase any insurance you feel necessary.
 - vii. Ask for a tracking number
 - viii. Mail in box.

Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild can take no responsibility for damage occurred during shipping.

For further information contact:

Oak Hammock Carving Guild Email: oakhammockcarving@gmail.com
Dustin Molinski at the marsh 204-467-3300 Email: d_molinski@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.

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 16, 2023
- 4) All entries must remain at the competition site until 3:00 pm September 17, 2023.
- 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) **Traditional Hunting/Working Decoy Division**
 - i) diving ducks
 - ii) puddle ducks
 - iii) geese/swans and confidence birds
 - iv) shorebirds
 - b) **Contemporary Gunning Style Decoy Division**,
 - i) diving ducks
 - ii) puddle ducks
 - iii) geese/swans and confidence birds
 - iv) shorebirds
 - c) **Purchase Awards**
 - d) **Vintage Decoys**
 - e) **Rest of the Marsh**
 - f) **Stylized Representations of the Marsh**
 - g) **Non-floating decorative ducks**
 - h) **Junior**
- 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. Junior entries are free.

Traditional Hunting/Working Decoy Division

This decoy must represent a traditional working decoy in all aspects of painting and construction. It is a decoy that may be described as one that is simple in style and 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. Decoys must be sturdily constructed from traditional materials such as wood, cork, foam or stretched canvas.
2. Head may be screwed or dowelled to the body.
3. All decoys (except non-floating shorebirds) will be floated
4. All floating decoys must have facility for anchor line attachment and 4-5 feet of anchor line, with an appropriate anchor
5. Construction must be sturdy, practical and suitable for use as a hunting decoy. 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.)
2. Limited details such as mandible separation and nostril holes will be permitted.
3. **Feather groups may be carved but not individual feathers.** Added detail will carry no weight in the decision of the overall quality

Painting:

1. The decoy must be painted 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
4. Painting and finishing must be durable, **simple*** and easily repaired. Any decoy that loses paint, checks or cracks will be disqualified.
5. 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 will be carried out at a distance no more than 30 yards and no closer than 10 yards.
3. Construction will be judged in hand.
4. 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.
5. **Decoys must self-right when thrown from the canoe.** Geese & Swans must self-right from their side.
6. Floating shorebirds decoys will be floated. Standing birds must be mounted on a dowel or on wire legs.

Contemporary Gunning Style Decoy Division

Construction:

1. Decoys may be made from traditional materials such as wood, cork, foam 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
4. All decoys must have facility for anchor line attachment and 4-5 feet of anchor line, with an appropriate anchor.

Carving:

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

Painting:

1. Paints must be durable. Decoys losing paint, checks or splits will be disqualified
2. Detailed painting techniques, to the best of the carver's ability, are encouraged. Detailed painting 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 no more than 30 yards and no closer than 10 yards.
3. Decoys should reflect the overall character of the species.
4. Construction will be judged in hand.
5. 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.**
6. **Decoys must self-right when thrown from the canoe.** Geese, swans must self-right from their side.
7. Floating shorebird decoys will be floated. Standing shorebirds must be mounted on a dowel or on wire legs.

Vintage Decoy Division

1. **Vintage decoys:** a decoy with the style, characteristics and charm of its forebears but **not** a replica of the original. Carvers may exaggerate certain features, blend carving styles and/or add their own personal flair to classic decoy style. Carvers are to be complemented in their creativity in re-stylizing classic Canadian/American decoys. Correct anatomy will not be the standard here. Decoys should be made to look old by the manner in which they are carved, painted and finished.
2. There will be two divisions: Pristine and Worn.
 - a. **Pristine decoys** are antique-style pieces which have not been subjected to field use, with minimal wear and patina permitted
 - b. **Worn decoys** are pieces that appear to have had heavy field use showing moderate to severe deterioration
3. Waterfowl, shorebird and confidence decoys are eligible.

Rest of the Marsh

1. Any subject: bird, duck not life-sized, mammal/critter or fish; found in and around 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 subject: bird, duck, mammal/critter or fish; found in and around the marsh is eligible;
2. A stylized or interpretive work in any medium will be welcome.
3. Natural finish, interpretive, rusty-nail shorebirds, and peeps would be entered here.
4. No limitation on size or finish

Non-floating Decorative Ducks – Life-sized

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

Junior

1. Individuals under 18. No entry fees.
2. Any carving, any category including silhouette.

Purchase Award Rules and Criteria

1. **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.
2. **The Rod Fowler Memorial Purchase Award** is for a contemporary shorebird (**carver's 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.
3. **The Ross Gage Purchase Award** for an antique-style shorebird decoy (pristine or worn/distressed finish). The first-place carving becomes the property of the award sponsor
4. **“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.
5. **Larry Vanderhyde Purchase Award** for the best cocktail bird carving. Maximum size of the subject, excluding base, must fit into a four-inch cube. 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.

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 carvings, books and tools etc.
- If sold 50% of sale price goes to the carver and 50% to Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild

Your participation would be greatly appreciated.