

The 2011
Decoy, Fishing Tackle &
Outdoor Collectibles Show



Rare W. Clarke
Toronto Canvasback



CANADIAN DECOY
&
OUTDOOR COLLECTIBLES
ASSOCIATION

Auction

Saturday, October 29 @11am
Preview @ 9:30am

Show

Sunday, October 30 @ 9am

- Saturday Auction of decoys, fishing tackle and outdoor collectibles by Simpson Sporting Auctions w/John Simpson Auctioneer
- Saturday evening reception, banquet and room-to-room buy-trade & sell session
- Sunday Show with 50 tables of vendors w/decoys, fishing tackle & outdoor collectibles
- Displays of Canadian decoys, wildlife carvings & outdoor collectibles

The Location

Best Western Cairn Croft Hotel
6400 Lundy's Lane
Niagara Falls, ON L2G 1T6
1-800-263-2551 for reservations
(mention CDOCA Show for discount rate)

For info:

Laurin Garland • 613-256-7255
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John Simpson • 705-466-2207

Websites

www.canadiandecoy.com
www.simpsonauctions.com

SHOWSTOPS

43rd annual Decoy & Wildlife Show Clayton, New York July 15-16, 2011

Each July for the last few years we've made the trip to Clayton, a small town along the St. Lawrence River in the scenic Thousand Island area of Upstate New York, for their annual Decoy and Wildlife Show, the only decoy show we attend during the summer months. We enjoy this show for the breathtaking beauty of the area as much as the opportunity to visit with some of our subscribers from the region - and hopefully do a little commerce. Once you see the river for yourself, you'll want to plan a vacation.

We arrive late Thursday afternoon to set up for this two-day show at the Recreation Park Arena, the local ice skating ring, then head off to our motel to freshen up for an evening reception at the nearby Thousand Island Museum. New museum president Tom Humberstone welcomed a nice turnout of exhibitors and local supporters and thanked them for continued support of the show. There was a table full of delectable hors d'oeuvres and a local winery was pouring a fine selection of their offerings.

Last year the museum did a renovation and added a second floor display of St. Lawrence River decoys. We totally over-

looked it! This year we made sure to get a peek at the exhibit of carvings by Sam Denny of Clayton, which sure enough included a wonderful little bufflehead, which must be a very rare species for any St. Lawrence River carver.

The show kicks off on Saturday morning, and the weather was beautiful. There are about 40 exhibitors in all, with about a dozen, most of whom are members of the Thousand Island Decoy Collectors Association, offering old birds for sale. Most of the inventory is comprised of decoys from both sides of the river - both Canadian and Upstate - but top quality birds are hard to find at this show. The only example we ran across by Chauncey Wheeler considered the top maker from the area, was a canvasback offered by Eric Pitman. But if you're a Ken Harris collector, this is a show you don't want to miss.

Each year the show committee features an exhibit of decoys for display. Normally they're vintage birds. But this year they exhibited a couple of cases of decoys by Bill Veasey, the well-known carver, carving instructor and author from Elkton, Maryland. We shared an enjoyable conversation the morning before the show.

The last few years there's been a doubly good reason to turn out for the first day of the show. First of all, collectors get a first crack at the inventory. Secondly, Blanchard's Auction Service holds a sale,



Eric Pitman (L) and Preston Lowe, longtime Upstate collectors, each brought a selection of New York decoys - many by Ken Harris - to this year's show.



Guy Sweet, a carver from Clayton, made a few "tourist souvenirs" to sell at this year's show including turkey feet backscratchers and miniature "stool samples."

mostly low-end decoys and miscellaneous local antiques, starting that afternoon. There are also three carving competitions that take place throughout the opening day. So by mid-morning on Friday a good crowd had come through the door. Sometime that afternoon a couple showed up with an interesting rig of "river birds," but none of the locals could identify the maker.

To further accommodate the exhibitors, the show committee offers complimentary coffee and donuts on Friday morning and a full breakfast on Saturday morning. The lunchroom, run by the show committee, provides a good variety of choices and their huge selection of homemade pies is always a show favorite (we're partial to blueberry).

By mid-afternoon on Saturday most of the crowd had left the building. While the attendance wasn't overwhelming, reducing the show at least makes the two days seem busier. We signed up some new members and sold a handful of books and back issues and saw quite a number of birds change hands. Unfortunately, we couldn't stay an extra day for a trip on the river, as the auctions in New England were just a couple days away. So it was time to pack up and prepare for the long drive home.

For more information on next year's show, contact the Thousand Island Museum at (315) 686-5794 or visit their website at www.timuseum.org.

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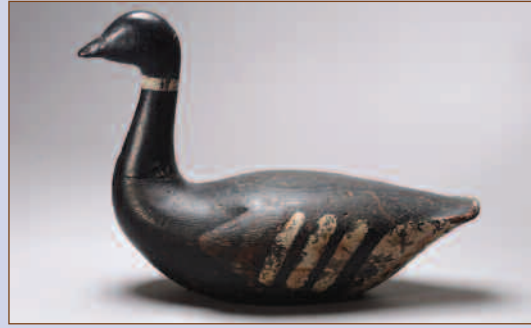
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(Continued from page 6)

about 40 lots with a low estimate of just over \$100,000, quite an accomplishment in this economy.

On Saturday morning we headed to the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis for Decoys Unlimited's two-day sale, the last stop on our journey. Upon arrival we set up for the two-day dealer exhibition, which is held on Saturday and Sunday, with about 30-40 other exhibitors. The opening day is generally pretty slow, as most don't arrive until the preview starts that evening, but a good crowd showed up for a first look at the decoys and the open bar did plenty of business.

Generally Decoys Unlimited draws the biggest turnout for the dealer exhibition since there are so many collectors who live within a few hours drive or less. But this year it seemed unusually, almost painfully, slow, and the air conditioning made it feel like a meat locker. We felt bad as we had encouraged one dealer to extend his week and set up one more time. But it worked out in the end as a few last minute sales made it worth his while.

For the last few years Ted and Judy Harmon have hosted a clambake, which was scheduled this year for Sunday evening. All of the exhibitors get a free ticket and others can be purchased for \$75. After an incredibly hot week of record-breaking temperatures, a terrible thunderstorm flashed through the area in the early afternoon, making it doubtful that we'd have the event outside. Then all of the sudden it cleared, the temperatures and humidity dropped, and the weather was spectacular for the night. All who attended would agree it was the social event of the week, as everyone had plenty of lobster, ribs, soups and salads, all topped off with a strawberry shortcake dessert. The turnout was terrific and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the event.

The highlight of this auction was a curlew from Duxbury, Massachusetts that used to be in the collection of Dr. George Ross Starr and is pictured in his book, "Decoys of the Atlantic Flyway." It sold to a battle of phone bidders for \$111,550, nearly five times its estimate. A hissing Canada goose by George Boyd also sold to a phone bidder for \$60,375. As of press time we were still waiting for their price key so we are unable to provide additional numbers at this time. We will fully cover all three auctions in our next issue.

In all, there were about 1500 lots sold during the week that grossed over \$4 million, a marked improvement over last year's figures. But the one thing that doesn't appear to be improving is the number of people physically participating in person at the sales. That is not a good trend, as fewer people affect the results of the dealers exhibiting at the shows, which effect their future attendance

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Kit and Bill Atkinson from Upstate New York at the Guyette & Schmidt auction preview. Real troopers, they attended all three auctions.



Bob Mosher, a carver from Hingham, Massachusetts, offered some of his decoys for sale at the Decoys Unlimited auction.



Gerry Enoksen (R) checks out the inventory on Al Minucci's table at the Copley auction.



Dick Baker, a veteran collector from Fisher's Island, New York, had a few birds for sale at the Decoys Unlimited auction.



Illinois collector Tom Karras (L) and Virginia dealer Bill Masengarb, both shorebird fans, have a discussion at the Decoys Unlimited auction.



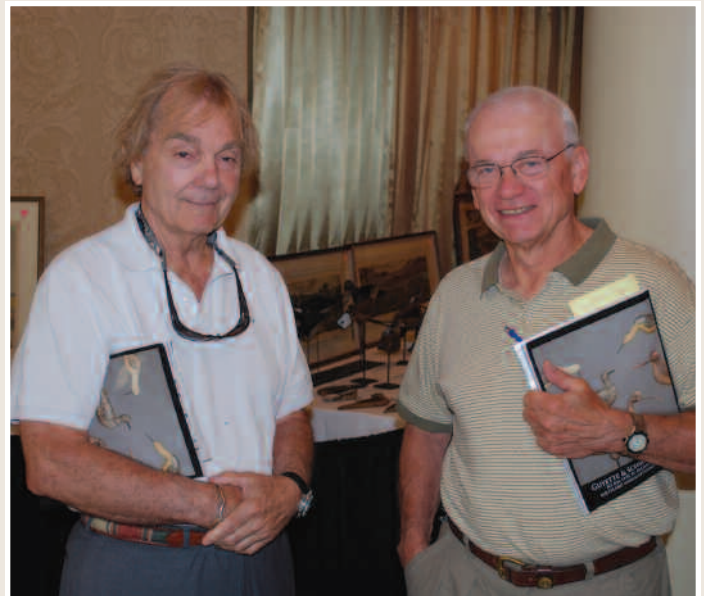
Ron Gard pictured with the Decoy Divas, a social group that frequents the bars at many events. If you don't know the ladies in the picture, you don't get around enough.



Decoy Magazine contributor Gene Kangas (L) with Max Hoyos, one of the few Canadians we saw at the sales this year.



Jim Twining (L) of Ravens Way Antiques and restorer Paul Fortin at the Decoys Unlimited auction.



Loy Harrell (L) and Jim Goodman, both avid fans of factory decoys, at the Copley auction.



Dick McIntyre (R) checks out a Stevens redhead on the table of dealer Russ Goldberger at the Decoys Unlimited auction.



Jason Baldwin (L) of Chicago checked out the artwork on Ohio dealer Bob Burger's table at the Copley auction.