

Finney cat tops Auctioneers Inc. sporting collectibles auction

IT WASN'T A CARVING of a fish or fowl that topped the Auctioneers Inc. sporting collectibles auction on July 29, 2018 at the Cherry Grove Event Center in Cadillac, Michigan. Rather, it was a replica of a famous folk art cat originally made by Oscar Peterson. This one was made by Frank Finney of Virginia's Eastern Shore and it sold for \$9775, likely to the surprise of all in attendance.

There were two lots by Jim Schmiedlin of Bradfordwoods, Pennsylvania. The first, a canvasback donated by his wife Debra, brought \$6900, of which all of the proceeds were donated to the Pittsburgh Foundation in Jim's memory. A bluebill sold for \$1955.

A pair of hollow-carved Challenge grade mallards by the Mason factory of Detroit sold for \$8050; a pair of Premier mallards brought \$2070. A rare Challenge grade George Bacon model goldeneye hen sold for \$2875. A Premier redhead, canvasback and pintail sold for \$1610 each.

A brown trout fish plaque by Oscar Peterson of Cadillac, Michigan sold for \$9775. Two peacock plaques brought \$4888 and \$2875. There were a couple dozen Peterson spearing decoys, topped by a bass that sold for \$2070; a northern pike brought \$1495. An unusual frog fishing lure sold for \$1610. There were also a handful of Peterson duck decoys, topped by a pair of blue-winged teal at \$1610.


A hollow-carved lowhead bluebill by Nate Quillin of Rockwood, Michigan sold for \$2415. A wigeon by Otto Misch of Port Huron sold for \$1955. A canvasback by Carl Wallach of Mt. Clemens brought \$1840. There were a handful of lots by Ben Schmidt of Detroit, topped by a Canada goose at \$1495 and a pintail at \$1150. Two of note by Jim Foote of Detroit were a wigeon at \$2588 and an avocet at \$2185.

There were also a handful of hollow-carved Illinois River decoys, topped by a mallard by Robert Elliston of Bureau at \$2300 and an oversized mallard by Bert Graves of Peoria at \$1610.

A merganser hen by George Boyd of Seabrook, New Hampshire sold for \$2760. A hollow-carved canvasback hen by Tom Chambers of Toronto, Ontario brought \$2530. A

decorative quail by Bill Gibian of Onancock, Virginia sold for \$1045.

This was a record-breaking sale for Auctioneers Inc. with the roughly 650 lots offered (most sold) bringing just over \$250,000. The company's owners, Grant and Megan Cole, said the sale "surpassed our goals." All the prices include a 15% buyer's premium, although phone, absentee and Internet bidders were charged 18%.

The auction, which included fish, fowl, lures, minnow buckets, flat art and other assorted sporting items, was preceded the day before by an exhibitor show that included 55 vendor tables. Their next live auction is scheduled for January 2019. 



Brown trout fish plaque by Oscar Peterson of Cadillac, Michigan sold for \$9775.



Replica of a famous Oscar Peterson folk art cat by Frank Finney of Virginia's Eastern Shore sold for \$9775, which tied for the top lot in the auction.

Canvasback by Jim Schmiedlin of Bradfordwoods, Pennsylvania brought \$6900.



Wigeon by Jim Foote of Detroit sold for \$2587.



Pair of hollow-carved Challenge grade mallards by the Mason decoy factory of Detroit sold for \$8050.



Merganser hen by George Boyd of Seabrook, New Hampshire sold for \$2760.

