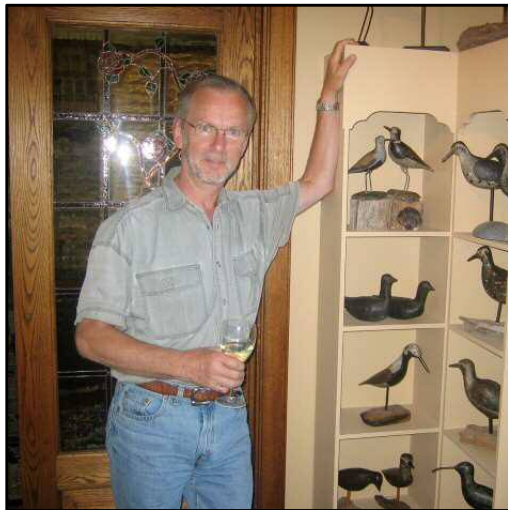


President's Message

From Laurin Garland



Again, our spring pilgrimage to the Midwest Decoy Collectors Association show in St. Charles Illinois has been accomplished. We managed to fly the "Friendly Skies" without incident and without a delay like last year's six hour stint in Ottawa during which the better part of an excellent bottle of duty free Dominican rum seemed to disappear. All in all smooth sailing.

The trip to St. Charles is one any enthusiastic collector should undertake. Access to Chicago is easy from many Canadian cities, with US Customs pre-clearance in the airports and direct flights to O'Hare. From Ottawa it's a 2 ¼ hour jaunt plus a 45 minute limo ride to Pheasant Run. Alternatively, numerous of our colleagues choose to drive. In any event, the access to so many decoys, dealers and other collectors is well worth the travel.

This year was particularly special as a significant part of the vast Peter Brown collection of Canadian decoys was on offer through the auction house of Guyette and Deeter. Proceeds from the sale went to the benefit of Ducks Unlimited Canada. There were many exceptional birds and prices reflected that. Room-to-room trading in Canadian

birds was also strong and there were still some on offer at the MegaCenter show.

One east coast preening brant fit within the carry on luggage, so it came home to Canada with us. For those who have been following our conversion to large decoy collecting, this brings the current total to an even dozen. The sunroom is almost full. Imagine how many shorebirds would fit in the same space.

The attraction to this year's show for folks north of the border was so strong that nine out of our eleven directors were in attendance at the board meeting we always hold in conjunction with the event. West coast, home smoked salmon was, once again, provided by our genial host Blair Ledingham in his penthouse suite overlooking the golf course. Wine, rum and other libations were contributed by various attendees. Some actual association business also got accomplished. Plans are well underway for our show at the Ambassador Hotel, Kingston on October 20 and 21, and we have already sold our first dealer tables for that event.

"Eleven directors?", you say. "I thought we had sixteen." Over the past year a number of long time board members elected not to stand for a renewal of term. Coincident with that we agreed at our meeting in October of last year to reduce the number of directors to eleven. More details on this are presented by Robin Craig later in this issue. Given the geographic spread of our association, it was proving to be very difficult ever to get together a quorum with a board size of sixteen. We feel that members are still well represented by a meaningful number of directors from across our association, yet we now are able to operate more effectively at our board meetings.

A final and very important point. Following the election of a new board of directors it is a requirement that the board appoint a president for the coming term. We are pleased to announce that, at our April meeting, the new board confirmed that person to be our current vice president Mark Harding. The new president will take office at the Annual General Meeting in October in conjunction with our Kingston show. Welcome president elect Mark.

North American Vintage Decoy and Sporting Collectibles Show

April 23rd through 29th – St Charles, Illinois.

The 52nd annual show, hosted by the Mid-West Decoy Collectors Association, recently concluded in St Charles. This show encompasses room-to-room trading, an auction and sporting collectibles show. Attendance by collectors of Canadian decoys was at an all-time high spurred on by the Guyette and Deeter Inc. auction sale of the Peter Brown collection.

The Brown collection from Vancouver, British Columbia was a diverse selection of approximately 1000 Canadian duck, geese and shorebird decoys. The decoys are mostly working birds carved in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The collection was donated to Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). In turn, DUC is offering much of the decoys from the collection to the public via auction with DUC the beneficiary of the net proceeds of the sale.

Room-to-room trading starts early in the week as both dealers and collectors gather for first choices on the offerings. By mid-week, all the rooms in the hotel complex were sold out. While the traffic and action appeared to be slow, many dealers said that things were moving well out of their rooms. While there appeared to be a real lack of any Canadian items in many of the rooms this



year, Paul Brisco, Roger Young, Blair Ledingham and John Latreille had more than enough great decoys to choose from.

Guyette and Deeter Inc. Auction

The definite highlight of the auction preview Wednesday evening was the Fernlund pintail pair. Lots of photos and inspections of these decoys. They were spectacular!

There was also a lot of discussion on the two Fernlund black ducks. They were very similar in carving style, but, had very different attitudes. It seemed like the opinions were split between the collectors as to their favorite.

This year's auction featured the first installment of the largest assembly of Canadian decoys ever to be offered at auction. There were over 90 Canadian items in the auction across a wide range of prices and species – something for everyone. It was good to see that a fair number were returned to Canada.

The auction grossed over \$2 million, with 41 lots selling for over \$10,000 and one lot selling for over \$200,000. New world auction records were established for Canadian carvers: Ivar Fernlund, John R. Wells, John Reeves and Angus Lake.

The top five Canadian sales are shown. All prices are hammer plus the premium in US dollars. The photos are courtesy of Guyette and Deeter Inc. Refer to their website for complete auction results.



Ivar Fernlund pintail pair - \$201,250



Ivar Fernlund black - \$47,725

The Rig – Published by the Canadian Decoy and Outdoor collectibles Association, c/o 66 Texas Avenue, Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, P6A 4Y8, as a club newsletter intended for the enjoyment and entertainment of its members and friends. CDOCA's missions are "to promote, share and maintain interest in decoys and other outdoor sporting collectibles." Annual memberships are available for \$30 Can or \$75 for three years. US rates are also \$ 30/75 in US funds.



John Wells shoveler pair - \$46,000



Sam Hutchins hooded merganser - \$36,800



Ivar Fernlund black - \$32,200

Guyette & Deeter's next sale will be held July 25 & 26, 2017 at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Featured are more Canadian decoys from the Brown collection such as these shown following.



Ivar Fernlund teal



W. Chrysler mergansers



Robert Paquette redhead



Angus Lake black ducks

Show

Early entry for club members to the collectibles show on Friday morning was a nice revision to the show schedule. Many members took advantage of this rather than wait to the conclusion of the auction.

The member displays this year were very interesting due



to the variety of the collectibles. The collector displays included vintage Midwest miniature decoys, LaCrosse Wisconsin fish decoys, vintage fish traps and Wisconsin shooting/gunning boxes. The featured carver exhibit was works by the McNair family (Mark, Ian and Colin).

Report of the Nominating Chairman for 2017 and 2018

The CDOCA is required to elect a slate of directors every two years as outlined in the constitution. At the fall meeting in 2016, the board voted to reduce the number of directors for the next term from the current number of 16 to 11.

The objectives of the nominating chairman were to:

- list candidates for the 2017 and 2018 term
- seek new director nominations
- strive for both regional representation and geographic distribution of directors, wherever possible
- nominate any of the present directors who wish to continue for another term

During the autumn months of 2016, a wide search was conducted to find new and interested members to serve as directors. Current directors were also contacted to determine their wishes regarding staying on as directors. This resulted in the following:

- two (2) directors resigned during the 2015–16 term
 - Wayne Hein
 - Jeff Mewburn
- four (4) directors opted not to continue as directors for the upcoming term
 - Keith Avann
 - David Dauphinais
 - Jim Grochowski
 - Jim Stewart
- ten (10) current directors chose to remain as directors for the upcoming term
- one (1) new director was nominated from Quebec, Pierre Menard, whose nomination was supported by outgoing director Jim Stewart.

As a result, we have successfully achieved the listed objectives of the nomination committee.

The members that have agreed to stand for 2017 and 2018 are:

John Battaglia	Paul Brisco	Robin Craig
Laurin Garland	Mark Harding	Blair Ledingham
Bill Meggs	Pierre Menard	Peter Munger
David Ness	Robert Ward	

Since there are 11 nominees for the 11 director positions, all 11 positions will be filled. Prior to acclaiming these 11 as directors, we need to seek approval from the membership.

Therefore, if you are a paid-up member of the CDOCA and you wish to vote yes for the above list of nominees to be acclaimed for the 2017 and 2018 term as directors, you need not do anything.

If you wish to vote no to the list or no to any member on the list, please advise Robin Craig by May 31, 2017 at robin.craig@bell.net or (705) 722-7237.

Membership Fees

Your membership expiration is shown on the newsletter mailing label. To stay current, please send cheque or money order to club treasurer/secretary John Battaglia at 132 October Crescent, London Ontario. N6K 4E1 or e-transfer to optician@sympatico.ca

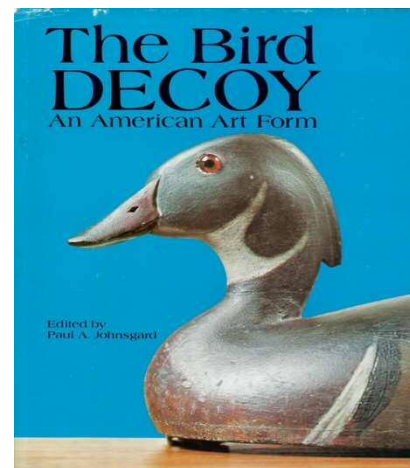
The Donal C. O'Brien Jr. Collection

Copley Fine Arts Auction LLC

Copley Fine Art Auctions, LLC will present a two-day sale event on July 27 and 28 in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The Donal C. O'Brien, Jr. Collection of Important American Sporting Art and Decoys, Sessions I & II, will be available at auction on July 27, followed by the twelfth edition of Copley's annual Sporting Sale on July 28.

Copley Fine Art Auctions is an American sporting art auction company, specializing in antique decoys and 19th- and 20th-century sporting, and wildlife paintings.

The Donal C. O'Brien, Jr. Collection of Important American Sporting Art and Decoys, built and curated over six decades by one of America's great conservationists,



is virtually unrivaled in its breadth and quality. It is considered by many to be the finest American sporting art and bird decoy collection ever assembled. It totals well over 500 objects and constitutes a remarkably complete collection of classic sporting art and decoys.

Decoys from the collection have been displayed at the Shelburne Museum in Vermont and at the American Folk Art Museum in New York City. They have also been featured in various waterfowl collecting books and magazines.

Donal Clare O'Brien, Jr. was a conservationist, lawyer, carver, sportsman and a long-time Chairman of the National Audubon Society and the Atlantic Salmon Federation.



From a very early age, Mr. O'Brien was both an avid outdoorsman and a skilled sportsman. His special interests included upland bird and waterfowl hunting, fly fishing

and surfcasting, bird watching, dog training and wildlife photography.

Like many of the nation's early conservationists, Mr. O'Brien expressed much of that passion through hunting. He also amassed an enormous collection of duck decoys. Donal O'Brien was one of the earliest decoy collectors "who usually went to the sources—... family members, even the carvers themselves..." according to a 2005 Forbes article by Monte Burke.

Donal O'Brien acquired many carvings from their original context as utility objects and was amongst the first to recognize them as a true American art form. O'Brien was very active in the 1950s and '60s, trading with Adele Ernest, Malcolm Fleming, William J. Mackey, Jr., and other early collectors. Whereas Mackey collected quantity and Ernest was a dealer, O'Brien was a connoisseur. As a carver himself, he brought his artistic eye to his pursuit, and his influence shaped decoy collecting as we know it today.

As a lawyer at a major New York City firm and, eventually, the Rockefeller family's lawyer for five decades, he continued to build his collection. Over the years, O'Brien amassed some 2,000 decoys, with a focus on those made from around the time of the American Civil War up until the 1930s.



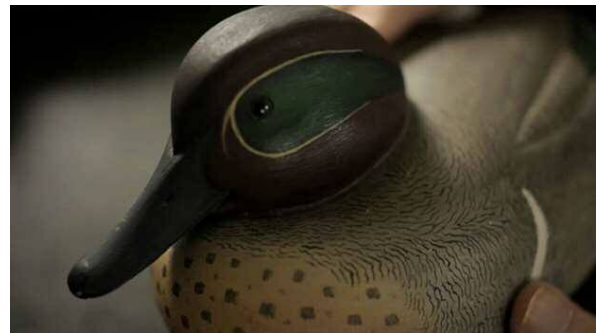
O'Brien's connoisseurship led him to collect the very best carvings, by individual makers, that are also considered pinnacle decoys by region. On the other hand, he is open to objects even if they're not in perfect condition: "I don't care if they are beat up." Indeed, decoys are that rare collectible for which, while condition, of course, plays a prime role in the market, authentic functionality also counts.

The decoy collection became one of the very best in the country. For O'Brien, his intense pursuit of decoys dovetailed with his other extracurricular passions: hunting and wildlife conservation.

O'Brien became a serious sportsman. He set his own decoys, became an excellent wing shooter, trained his own Labrador Retrievers, and studied both the winds and the ducks' flight patterns on his beloved Nantucket and areas further afield.

His appreciation of nature led him to become a devout conservationist. He served on the board of the National Audubon Society for 25 years, including 15 as its chairman.

His fascination with waterfowl inspired him to carve his own decoys both hunting and decorative. He was a superb amateur decoy maker. It took O'Brien about half a day to make a shooting decoy and two days for a contest bird. Self taught, he twice won the U.S. National Amateur Championship.



Many years ago, O'Brien sold about a thousand decoys, or half of his collection — although not his first, his grandfather's broadbill — to fund his newest passion: Audubon prints. "I like beautiful things," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. O'Brian passed away in 2013.

Two items of interest to us Canadians:

O'Brian wrote the forward to Barney Crandell's book Decoying St Clair to the St Lawrence where he states that the St Clair Flats to the St Lawrence river was an area which arguably has produced the greatest range and the most varied type of waterfowl decoys of any area in North America. Certainly, it was a thoughtful and respected observation!

O'Brian visited Canada annually to hunt, fish and visit decoy collections. He hunted Walpole Island, Squirrel Island and Wolf Island in Ontario and areas in New Brunswick to both hunt and salmon fish.

Highlights of his collection include excellent examples of Canadian decoy makers. Thomas Chambers' (1860-1948) wood duck is one of only two known in original paint, and recognized as the best of the two. It is widely considered to be the finest Canadian decoy ever to have surfaced.



Thomas Chambers (1860-1948), Wood Duck Drake, c. 1890, Estimate: \$80,000-\$120,000



George Warin (1830-1905), Canada Goose, Estimate: \$15,000-\$25,000



John Wells pintail



Markham rig redhead



Ruddy Turnstone with Wire Legs, Estimate: \$12,000-\$18,000

Sessions I and II of the Donal C. O'Brien, Jr. Collection of Important American Sporting Art and Decoys, consisting of approximately 175 lots, will take place at Hotel 1620 in Plymouth, MA on July 27, in conjunction with Copley's Sporting Sale, which will be held on July 28.

With notes from Audubon Society, Copley Fine Arts Auction, NY Times, Sotheby's, Sports Illustrated and the Stamford Advocate.

Ten Rules for Decoy Collecting

Reprinted with permission of Decoy Magazine and Preston Lowe

Many years ago, Preston Lowe wrote an article for Decoy Magazine which defined a set of generalized rules for decoy collecting. It was an interesting read as it summarized what many dealers and experienced collectors would suggest to novice collectors. These rules are as relevant then as now.

1. Get an education
2. Join your local decoy collecting club
3. Specialize
4. Buy what you like
5. Do not buy just to invest
6. Buy decoys in their original paint
7. Buy the best you can afford
8. Know the seller
9. Ask questions when making a purchase
10. Catalog your collection

Hunting Clubs

Some vintage photographs of Canadian hunting clubs and buildings referenced in decoy collecting references.

Canvasback Lodge – Delta Marsh, Manitoba



Kirchhoffer Lodge/York Lodge – Delta March, Manitoba
1908



St Clair Flats Shooting Company (Canada Club) - circa
1905



Joe Bedore's Hotel – South Channel, St Clair River



St Luke's Club – Lake St Clair - present day



The Long Point Company – Long Point Bay



Long Point Company



The Bluffs Hunting and Fishing Club – Long Point Bay –
circa 1923

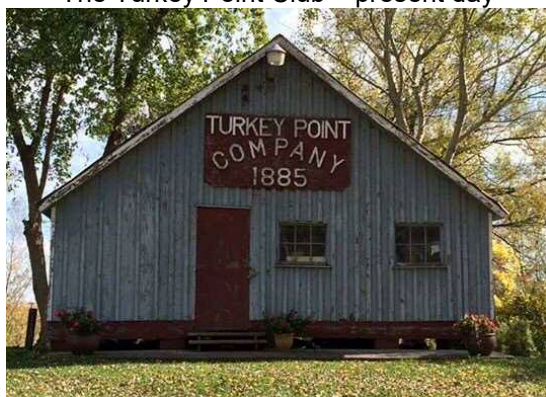
(Members slept and ate in the Bluff House on left, guides slept in
former Dr. J. Salmon's cottage on the right)



Circa 1990's – Club was rebuilt in 1962



The Turkey Point Club – present day



CANADIAN DECOY & OUTDOOR COLLECTIBLES ASSOCIATION



2017 Decoy, Fishing Tackle & Outdoor Collectibles Show Room to Room

Friday, Oct. 20 Buy, Sell & Trade Session!
SHOW

Saturday, Oct. 21 10 am to 3 pm

- . 50 tables of vendors w/decoys, fishing tackle, books, native & outdoor collectibles.
- . Admission \$5, Children with parents free
- . Displays of Canadian decoys, wildlife carving, folk art & outdoor collectibles
- . Saturday evening reception

Kingston Ambassador Hotel & Conference Centre

1550 Princess St.

Exit Sydenham Rd. south from 401

Rooms 1-800-267-7880 US & CAN

Mention CDOCA before Sept. 1 for show rate.



For Information:

Laurin Garland lgarland@xplornet.com
Website www.canadiandecoy.com

Table Rentals

Contact Mark: m_harding@outlook.com
or 613-985-8736

