36th Annual
Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Festival
May 5, 6, 7, 2017

DECOY COMPETITION RULE BOOK

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All entrants must complete the entry form. Entry form must be signed.

2. Deadlines: See contest divisions for registration deadlines for hand carried entries, entry fees and times. **All competition entries must remain on display until 4pm Saturday.**

3. Entries are limited to carvings completed within the last 12 months. Any visible identifying marks will be covered by the entrant prior to competition. All entries shall be by the entrant. No detailed machine-made blanks will be allowed.

4. Business cards may be placed on carvings following judging of that competition.

5. If there are three entries of the same species in the miscellaneous or in any category where they are not specified as a species/class, a separate species/class will be opened to judge these decoys.

6. All entries must be carved of wood, cork, or stretched canvas. Metal and/or cast metal is not acceptable, except where required for strength. Plastic inserts may be used only on pintails, old squaws and mallard curls.

7. There is no limit on number of entries. If two or more wildfowl decoys are entered in the same species/class, then both sexes must be represented.

8. **The Competition Committee shall have final authority related to all entries. Decision of Committee is FINAL**.

9. All hand-carried entries will be registered at the Havre de Grace **ACTIVITY CENTER**, with the exception of River Gunning Decoys. **NO** mail-in entries accepted.

10. Entrants are responsible for the correct placement of their entry(ies).

11. Gunning Decoys, Slick and Gunning Rig Decoys may be entered in each competition but will be judged according to each division. Miniatures which **meet** Cocktail division criteria may enter that division provided 4 or more entries are made for creation of the division.

12. **Each carver must show their entry receipt for admittance to show. They must pay for guest(s).**

LEVELS OF COMPETITION

Novice - Carvers who have not won two Best of Shows in the Novice level in this Show or Competition.

Intermediate - Open to carvers who have progressed beyond the Novice level by winning two Best of Shows at the Novice level in this Show or Competition. A carver cannot enter who has previously won two Best of Shows in the Intermediate level in this Show or Competition.

Open - All carvers may enter.

WILDFOWL CATEGORIES AND SPECIES/CLASS DESIGNATIONS

Puddle or Marsh Duck Category
Species/Class - All Mallard, Black Duck, Pintail, Widgeon, Teal, Wood Duck, and miscellaneous puddle ducks.

Diving Duck Category
Species/Class - All Canvasback, Scaup, Golden-Eye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck (Summer or Winter), Merganser, and miscellaneous diving ducks.

Canada Goose/Confidence Category
Species/Class - Brant, Swan, Gulls, Terns, Grebes, Loons (Summer or Winter), Coots, Gallinules and all other confidence birds, all Geese.

Songbird Category (Decorative Non-Floating & Miniature Divisions ONLY)
Species/Class - Blackbirds, Buntings, Chickadees, Creepers, Crows, Cuckoos, Dippers, Finches, Flycatchers, Gnatcatchers, Goatsuckers, Grosbeaks, Hummingbirds, Jays, Kingfishers, Kinglets, Larks, Nuthatches, Orioles, Parrots, Pipits, Shrikes, Sparrows, Starlings, Swallows, Swifts, Tanagers, Thrashers, Thrushes, Titmice, Vireos, Warblers, Waxwings, Woodpeckers, Wrens.

Shorebird Category (Decorative Non-Floating & Miniature Divisions ONLY)
Species/Class - Avocets, Coots, Cranes, Flamingos, Gallinules, Godwits, Herons, Ibises, Limpkins, Oystercatchers, Plovers, Rails, Sandpipers, Snipe, Stilts, Storks.

Seabird Category (Decorative Non-Floating & Miniature Divisions ONLY)
Species/Class - Auks, Boobies, Cormorants, Frigates, Grebes, Gulls, Jaegers, Loons, Pelicans, Petrels, Shearwater, Skimmers, Terns, Tropic Birds.

Upland Game Bird Category (Decorative Non-Floating & Miniature Divisions ONLY)
Species/Class - Doves, Grouse, Pheasants, Pigeons, Quail, Turkeys.

Bird of Prey Category (Decorative Non-Floating & Miniature Divisions ONLY)
Species/Class - Eagles, Falcons, Hawks, Owls, Vultures.

Waterfowl Category (Decorative Non-Floating & Miniature Divisions ONLY)
Species/Class - Brant, Black Duck, Bufflehead, Canvasback, Eiders, Gadwall, Geese, Golden-Eye, Mergansers, Mallards, Old Squaw, Pintail, Redhead, Ring Neck, Ruddy Duck, Scoter, Shoveler, Swan, Teal, Widgeon, Wood Duck.

If three or more birds of the same species are entered in the miscellaneous or in any category where they are not specified as a species/class, a separate species/class will be opened to judge these decoys. The Competition Committee will have the right to establish species/class under the categories. Ribbons will be awarded in all advertised species/classes.

Decoy Festival Divisions

Decorative Life-Size Floating Division - The entry will be judged in the tank. They must float with life-like attitude, but do not have to self-right.

Entry Fees: Novice and Intermediate Level - $15 first entry, $10 each additional.
Open Level - $25 first entry, $15 each additional.

Registration: Friday, 5 May, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Saturday, 6 May, 8:00 - 10:00 am. at Activity Center
Judging: Saturday, 6 May, 10:30 am.
Awards: All Levels - 1st, 2nd, 3rd and H.M. Ribbons in species/class.
All Levels - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosettes in Category.
Novice & Intermediate - Best in Show, 2nd in Show, 3rd in Show Rosettes.
Open Level - Best in Show Rosette.
Open Level - 2nd in Show Rosette
Open Level - 3rd in Show Rosette

Decorative Life-Size Wildfowl Non-Floating Division - Entries **must be full bodied or part of an environment composition.**

Entry Fees: Novice and Intermediate Level - $15 first entry, $10 each additional.
Open Level - $25 first entry, $15 each additional entry.
Registration: Friday, 5 May, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Saturday, 6 May, 8:00 - 10:00 am. at Activity Center
Judging: Saturday, 6 May, 10:30 am.
Awards: All Levels - 1st, 2nd, 3rd and H.M. Ribbons in species/class..
Novice & Intermediate - Best in Show, 2nd in Show, 3rd in Show Rosettes.
Open Level - Best in Show Rosette
Open Level - 2nd in Show Rosette
Open Level - 3rd in Show Rosette

All Entries must remain on display until 4pm Saturday

Whitey Franck Decorative Slick Division - Division open to all carvers. Feather groups including primary, tertials, and tail feathers may be individually carved. No stoning or burning of feather groups is allowed. Keels and weights are not required, but permitted. There will be no restrictions on painting of Whitey Franck Decorative Slick Division decoys.

Entry Fees: $25 first entry, $15 each additional.
Registration: Friday, 5 May, 6:00-8:00 pm. Saturday, 6 May, 8:00-10:00 am. at Activity Center
Judging: Saturday, 6 May, to follow completion of Decorative Floating judging.
Awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and H.M. Ribbons in species/class.
1st, 2nd, 3rd Best in Show Rosettes.

Gunning Decoy Division - Division open to all carvers. Entries will be of a type and style suitable to hunt over (traditional and functional working decoy). Entries must be full size or larger. All decoys must be made of wood, cork, or stretched canvas with no raised wings, wing tips, fragile bills, tails, or feather burning. Painting must be effective at a distance of twenty feet. Entries will be judged in the tank. Final judging will be made at twenty feet. Decoys must self-right from any position. Geese and Swan decoys must self-right from a side position. All weights and/or keels must be sturdy and non-fouling in design. Decoys must have a facility for anchor line attachment.

Entry Fees: $15 first entry, $5 each additional.
Registration: Friday, 5 May, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Sat., 6 May, 8:00 - 10:00 am. at Activity Center
Judging: Saturday, 6 May, 10:30 am. until finished
Awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and H.M. Ribbons in species/class.
1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best of Show Rosettes.

Youth Gunning Division - Open to all carvers age 16 and under. Entries are limited to one decoy of each sex per species/class. Entries must be full size or larger. All decoys must be made of wood or cork with no inserts, wing tips, fragile bills, tails or detailed feather burning. Entries will be of a type and style suitable to hunt over (traditional and functional working decoy). Painting is restricted to fall plumage and must be basic enough to facilitate repainting by the average hunter. Ballast weights, keels and line attachments must be functional.

Entry Fees: $10 first entry, $5 each additional.
Registration: Friday, 5 May, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Saturday, 6 May, 8:00 - 10:30 am. at Activity Center
Judging: Saturday, 6 May, 10:30 am.
Awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and H.M. Ribbons.

All Entries must remain on display until 4pm Saturday

Decoy Festival Divisions

Ed Watts Gunning Rig Division - Division open to all carvers. Entry will be comprised of **six** Ducks (species is carver's choice) with at least **two hens** per rig. **4 decoys** are required for Goose Confidence Birds. Entries must be full size or larger. All decoys must be made of wood, cork or canvas with no raised wings, wing tips, fragile bills, tails, or feather burning. Entries will be of a type and style suitable to hunt over (traditional and functional working decoy). Painting is restricted to **fall plumage** and must be basic enough to facilitate repainting by the average hunter. Ballast weights, keels and line attachments must be functional. Decoys must self-right from any position. All entries will be set upon the waters of the Susquehanna Flats. Entrant must furnish a diagram for placement or set their rig. All rigs must be set by 10:30 am on day of judging. No molded rubber or plastic decoys will be permitted. All decoys must be picked up after awards presentation.

Entry Fees: $10 per rig
Registration: Saturday, 6 May, 8:00 - 10:00 am at Decoy Museum
Judging: Saturday, 6 May, 11:00 am
Awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and H.M. Ribbons in species/class
1st, 2nd, 3rd Best of Show Rosettes

Pairs Competition
River Gunning PAIRS Division -Pairs may be weighted as Tandem pairs or Single pairs and can be any species. Division open to all carvers. Entries will be of a type and style suitable to hunt over (traditional and functional working decoy). Entries must be full size or larger. All decoys must be made of wood, cork, or stretched canvas with no raised wings, wing tips, fragile bills, tails or feather burning. Entries may be tossed from a boat. Painting is restricted to fall plumage and must be basic enough to facilitate repainting by the average hunter. Painting must be effective at a distance of twenty feet. Entries will be judged from the Promenade. Decoys must self-right from any position. Geese and Swan decoys must self-right from a side position. All weights and/or keels must be sturdy and non-fouling in design. Decoys must have a facility for anchor line attachment with 6 - 10 feet of line. Hunting birds only! Pairs can be weighted as Pairs or Weighted as Singles. All decoys must be picked up after the awards presentation.

Entry Fees: $10 first entry, $5 each additional
Registration: Saturday, 6 May, 8:00 - 11:00am at Decoy Museum
Judging: Saturday, 6 May, 12:00 Noon
Awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and H.M. Ribbons is species/class
1st, 2nd, 3rd Best of Show Rosettes

All Entries must remain on display until 4pm Saturday

River Gunning Division- Division open to all carvers. Entries will be of a type and style suitable to hunt over (traditional and functional working decoy). Entries must be full size or larger. All decoys must be made of wood, cork, or stretched canvas with no raised wings, wing tips, fragile bills, tails or feather burning. Entries may be tossed from a boat. Painting is restricted to fall plumage and must be basic enough to facilitate repainting by the average hunter. Painting must be effective at a distance of twenty feet. Entries will be judged from the Promenade. Decoys must self-right from any position. Geese and Swan decoys must self-right from a side position. All weights and/or keels must be sturdy and non-fouling in design. Decoys must have a facility for anchor line attachment with 6 - 10 feet of line. Hunting birds only! All decoys must be picked up after the awards presentation.

Entry Fees: $10 first entry, $5 each additional
Registration: Saturday, 6 May 8:00 am – 12:00 noon at Decoy Museum
Judging: Saturday, 6 May 1:30 pm
Awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and H.M. Ribbons is species/class
1st, 2nd, 3rd Best of Show Rosettes

FISH DIVISION

Decorative Life-Size Fish Division - Freshwater (Bass, Catfish, Perch, Trout, etc.) and Saltwater (Bass, Mackerel, Tuna, etc.) fish are acceptable. All entries must be of wood. No resin or wood composites. Glass eyes, fishing line, fishing hooks and metal for strength and/or stability are acceptable. Wire may be used for whiskers and barbers. No plastic, silk or manufactured plants will be permissible. All domes and cases must be removed for judging. All components used to create the environment must be made by the carver. Entries which are comprised solely of wood or those which contain as little non-wood materials as possible will have an advantage over entries that contain substitute materials.

Entry Fees: $15 first entry, $10 each additional.
Registration: Friday, 5 May, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Saturday, 6 May, 8:00 - 10:00 am. at Activity Center
Judging: Saturday, 6 May, 10:30 am.
Awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and H.M. Ribbons.

All Entries must remain on display until 4pm Saturday

Decoy Festival Divisions

Shorebirds- Division open to all carvers. Entries must be stick mounted and be of wood. Judging will be made in one class, hunting.

Entry Fees: $15 first entry, $5 each additional.
Registration: Friday, 5 May 6:00 - 8:00pm. Saturday, 6 May, 8:00 - 10:00 am at Activity Center
Judging: Saturday, 6 May, after 12 Noon.
Awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and H.M. Ribbons.

Decorative Miniature Wildfowl Division - All entries must be one-half life-size or less but **with a maximum subject length of eight inches.** Length is measured from center chest to tip of tail. Entries must be full bodied or part of an environment composition.

Entry Fees: $15 first entry, $10 each additional.
Registration: Friday, 5 May, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Saturday, 6 May, 8:00 - 10:00 am. at Activity Center
Judging: Saturday, 6 May, 10:30 am.
Awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and H.M. Ribbons
1st, 2nd, 3rd Best of Show Rosettes

All Entries must remain on display until 4pm Saturday

Decoy Festival Divisions

Contemporary Antique

Entries are to emulate the appearance of decoys and birds which were carved prior to 1950. Decoys will be judged in hand. The division will be divided into categories as three or more birds of the same species are entered in the miscellaneous or in any category where they are not specified as a species/class. The Competition Committee will have the right to establish species/class under categories.

1. Entries must have been completed since May 2016.
2. All entries must be signed and dated.
3. Entries can be inspired by old decoys from geographic areas but must be the carver's original design and interpretation of an 'old' decoy.
4. Decoys should be made to look old by the manner in which they are carved, painted and finished.
5. Shorebirds and Wading Birds must be mounted on a dowel and have a simple base.

Entry Fees: $15 first entry, $5 each additional.
Registration: Friday, 5 May, 6:00-8:00pm. Saturday, 6 May, 8:00-10am at Activity Center
Judging: Saturday, 6 May, after 12 noon.
Awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and H.M. Ribbons

All Entries must remain on display until 4pm Saturday