



58th Annual

Decoy & Wildlife Art Show

July 17 and 18, 2026

Gordon D. Cerow Recreation Park Arena, Clayton, NY

**Art Knapp Memorial International
HUNTING DECOY CONTEST**

2025 Best of Show – Glenn Sweet

BEST IN EACH OF 18 DECOY CATEGORIES

1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Ribbons

BEST MARSH DUCK/BEST DIVING DUCK/BEST GOOSE

(selected from first place entries in each class)

\$100 & ribbon

BEST OF SHOW

\$350 Cash Prize plus ribbon and plaque

Winning Decoy will be retained in the Decoy Hall of Fame

Thousand Islands Museum, Clayton, NY

ENTRY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Please read carefully

1. The contest is an open contest-Amateur, Professional and Novice will be judged together and is designed to give everyone an equal to chance to display their skills and to perpetuate the art of decoy carving in its original form- the hunting decoy.
2. Decoys must be carved from wood or cork and completed *after* our previous contest date. Marsh Ducks and Geese must self-right from side positions and Divers from any position with balancing by means practical for hunting use. Provision must be made for anchoring. *No machine duplicated decoys allowed.*
3. **This is strictly a Hunting Decoy Contest- NO detailed carving such as in wings, tail feathers or delicate bills, raised wings, delicate tails, burning or over carving.** Decoys must be sturdy, well-constructed and capable of withstanding rough treatment. The chairmen shall have the right to disqualify any decoy that does not conform to any rule prior to judging. Remember, the intent of this contest is to help preserve the art of carving and painting a working duck decoy.
4. Decoys must be painted in a manner that could be duplicated to a reasonable degree by a hunter. There can be no fancy brushwork or shading. No feather splits, combing, stippling or flocking are permitted. Color and pattern should be representative of fall plumage. Identifying marks should be covered by tape.
5. **Entry fee is \$10.00 for the first decoy and \$3.00 for each additional entry.** No more than two entries (Drake and Hen) can be made in any one species; otherwise, there are no other limitations on the number of entries. Checks can be made payable to the T.I. Museum.
6. **Judging for singles will start at 1:00pm on Friday.** The panel of 3 judges will be briefed at 12:30pm. Decoys will be inspected first by the contest chairmen to insure compliance with the rules. The decoys will then be judged at a distance by the panel of 3. Thus, the profile and appearance as a **Gunning Decoy** will be the primary judging factor. In case of a tie, judges will move halfway to the tank. If a tie remains the judges will move to the tank, handle and inspect the decoys to break the tie.
7. **Mailed entries:** Failure to include entry fees, sufficient return postage, insurance, and a \$5.00 handling fee will result in decoys not being accepted for judging. Be sure to specify the amount you want the decoys to be insured for when returned. Mail or ship via UPS (no FEDEX) to: Thousand Islands Museum, 312 James Street, Clayton, NY 13624. **All entries** must be received by 12:00 noon, Thursday, the week of the show.
8. Decoys carved by persons 16 years of age or under, may be entered free of charge in the Youth Division contest. See Youth Registration Form for further details.

