



In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, hunters carved decoys as a means to put food on the table. Most of their wooden birds were good enough to lure the ducks and geese within shotgun range and many did not last long. But as the hunters became better carvers, they started carving better decoys. And the simple gunning decoy evolved into a very collectible art form. When gunning laws became much stricter, and duck hunting was no longer a good way to make a living, basements and barns all over Canada and the US became the repository for a great number of decoys that were no longer needed. Now they are surfacing again.

In the early 1920's, a Belleville Ontario decoy carver named William Hart carved a Hooded Merganser decoy. He probably made it with the idea of selling it for a few dollars or to hunt with it and bag a few ducks to sell or eat. Somehow, the decoy survived in what we call "pristine" condition and made its way to the May, 2005 Guyette & Schmidt Decoy Auction in the US. A collector paid \$203,000 for the decoy, a record price for a Canadian antique wooden hunting decoy.

Purchasing wildlife art can sometimes be an investment financially but it always brings pleasure displayed in our homes and offices. And perhaps your children's children will discover that, way back when, you actually bought the piece that was appraised for big bucks at a future Antiques Road Show.

## **PURCHASE AWARDS**

A panel of qualified judges will choose the winning carving from all the Purchase Award entries at the show. The carver who has created the winning carving will receive the cash awarded and the sponsor will receive ownership of the winning carving. Please contact the club if you feel you would like to take part as a purchase award sponsor.

Inquire about being a purchase award sponsor for 2013.

Best Life-sized Decorative Duck	\$1200.
Best Life-sized Decorative Songbird	\$ 900.
Best Smoothie Decoy	\$ 700.
Best Smoothie Shorebird	\$ 500.
Best Whale or Dolphin	\$ 500.
Best antique Decoy/Shorebird	\$ 350.

Or you have a choice of other carving styles. We can advise you of what your opportunities are.

Dennis Drechsler  
Brant Show Chair  
Vancouver Island Woodcarvers Club  
e-mail.... [ddrex@shaw.ca](mailto:ddrex@shaw.ca)