

Ward decorative yellowlegs tops Barfield's auction

A DECORATIVE preening yellowlegs by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland sold to a phone bidder for \$8580 at Barfield's spring "Sportsman's Auction" on May 19-20, 2017 at their auction facility in Hallwood on Virginia's Eastern Shore. It was the top lot in what was undoubtedly one of their more successful auctions, thanks to a fine selection of choice Maryland and Virginia decoys.

A Ward brothers bluebill hen, one of a group of five early 1930s rigmates, sold for

\$3410; a drake bluebill brought \$3080. There were three canvasbacks in the rig; two drakes that sold for \$2820 and \$2530 and a hen that brought \$2420. A pair of their later "Shooting Stool" model bluebills sold for \$2530.

A hissing Canada goose by Ira Hudson of Chincoteague was the top Virginia decoy in the auction; in old repaint but in good structural condition, it sold for \$5500. A nice early brant with a slight swimming attitude by Russell Bull sold to an Internet bidder for \$1540. An early

pair of cedar-bodied goldeneyes in old gunning paint by Miles Hancock brought \$908. A black duck with a rare blue speculum by Doug Jester sold for \$468.

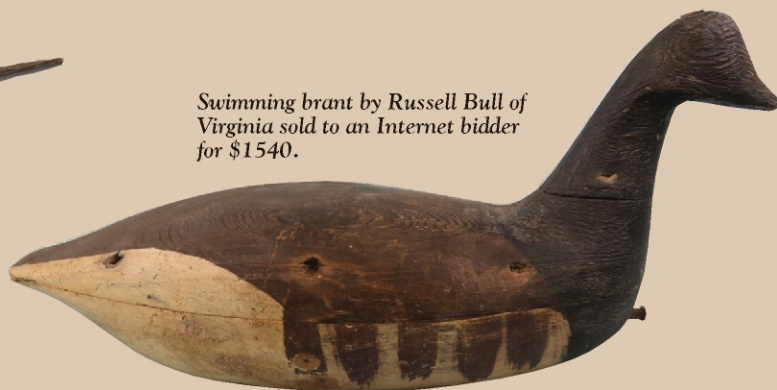
One of the biggest surprises in the auction was a lot of five buffleheads by Jack Dempsey Bowden of Chincoteague that attracted little or no interest from the crowd in attendance. A battle among Internet bidders, most likely family members, drove the price to \$4180.

Decoys and decoratives by Delbert "Cigar" Daisey of Chincoteague always at-

Decorative yellowlegs by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland sold to a phone bidder for \$8580.



Swimming brant by Russell Bull of Virginia sold to an Internet bidder for \$1540.



Hissing Canada goose by Ira Hudson of Chincoteague, Virginia sold for \$5500.



Rare surf scoter by Delbert "Cigar" Daisey of Chincoteague, Virginia sold to a Virginia dealer for \$3530.



Challenge grade brant by the Mason decoy factory of Detroit sold to a Delaware collector for \$2520.



tract a bevy of bidders at these auctions, and with his recent passing even more attention was focused on a group of lots offered at this sale. The top lot, a rare surf scoter, sold to a Virginia dealer for \$3520. A black duck and a mallard brought \$2310 and \$1980, a trio of shorebirds on a string sold for \$1650, and a pair of "Jester style" hooded mergansers sold for \$1100. Surprisingly, an extremely rare Ross goose brought only \$880.

An early swan with a barn door keel by Madison Mitchell of Havre de Grace sold to a Maryland collector for \$1430. A pair of near-mint canvasbacks by Bob McGaw of Havre de Grace, formerly in the collections of Bill Purnell and Sam Dyke, brought \$2640. A canvas-covered swan by Mannie Haywood of Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, with a likely bill replacement, sold to a Southern dealer for \$798.

A near-mint Challenge grade brant by the Mason decoy factory of Detroit sold to a Delaware collector for \$2530. A Premier grade redhead brought \$825. A hollow-carved Canada goose by John McLoughlin of Bordentown, New Jersey, never rigged, sold to an Internet bidder for \$853. A yellowlegs with a bill replacement by Rhodes Truex of Atlantic City sold for \$440.

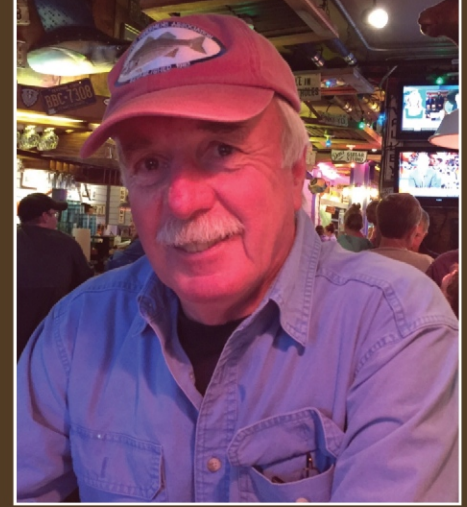
A pair of wigeon by Oliver "Tuts" Lawson of Crisfield sold for \$1100, while a pair of his wood ducks brought \$990. An early pair of flying pintails by Cameron McIntyre of New Church, Virginia sold

for \$1210. A pair of flying wood ducks by Sean Sutton of Paulsboro, New Jersey brought \$825. A curlew by Mark McNair of Craddockville, Virginia brought \$908; a Seaford, Long Island style" black-bellied plover sold for \$660 and a Massachusetts style black-bellied plover sold for \$633.

In addition to decoys, Barfield's sporting auctions generally offer a quality selection of oyster cans, which are popular among collectors on the Eastern Shore. The best at this sale was a rare May River can from Bluffton, South Carolina that sold to a Delaware collector for \$3080.

Barfield's sporting auctions always attract a good local turnout, as one never knows just what might turn up. Over the two days there were over 450 lots offered to online bidders as well as those in attendance. In addition, hundreds of uncatalogued lots were sold off the tables, either individually offered or sold as buyer's choice. This is a great opportunity for dealers to add to their inventory and nearly everyone leaves with something.

In summary, the auction grossed roughly \$200,000, which adds up to one of their most successful sporting sales. All prices include a 10% buyer's premium. Considering the large number of offerings, the trio of auctioneers did an incredibly good job of selling hundreds of items in an efficient manner.



LaPointe joins Guyette & Deeter

Guyette & Deeter has recently announced the appointment of Bill LaPointe as the newest member of their organization. He will focus his efforts in the New York and New England region and represent the company at decoy shows and their four live auctions.

"Bill has shown tremendous responsibility over the last 12 years working closely with Ted and Judy Harmon of Decoys Unlimited," the statement read. "He is a long-time collector whose specialty is New England decoys with a focus on the Massachusetts south coast. We are confident that Bill will be an asset to both our company and our clients."

Eldred's, Harmon form new partnership

Eldred's and Decoys Unlimited Inc. have announced a newly formed strategic partnership. Starting immediately, they will work together in the procurement, marketing and sale of waterfowl carvings at auction, with their first joint auction scheduled for August 4, 2017 at Eldred's gallery in East Dennis, Massachusetts.

"I have been in this business since the 1970s," said Ted Harmon, who owns Decoys Unlimited with his wife Judy. "This partnership with Eldred's is ideal as it allows me to continue to do what I love without the burden of the day-to-day responsibilities of running an auction house. Working with Eldred's, Judy and I get to focus on what we do best, which is working with our clients and discovering new birds."

"When Ted and Judy approached us with the idea it seemed like a no-brainer," said Joshua Eldred, the company's president. "Eldred's has always had a foot in the decoy market but this partnership will allow us to be much more competitive in the field."

Eldred's and Decoys Unlimited hope to produce two to three cataloged auctions per year, either as stand-alone events or as part of Eldred's Americana auctions.



Early 1930s bluebill hen by the Ward brothers brought \$3410.

Swan with barn door keel by Madison Mitchell of Havre de Grace, Maryland sold to a Maryland collector for \$1430.