

Ward pintail hen top carving at Barfield's "Sportsman's Auction"

A CIRCA 1950s decorative pintail hen by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland sold to a Florida collector for \$2970, the high-priced carving at Barfield's "Sportsman's Auction" on May 20-21 at their auction gallery in Hallwood on Virginia's Eastern Shore. This was one of three sporting auctions that Barfield holds annually, which include a mix of old decoys and decorative carvings, sporting art, firearms, oyster collectibles, fishing items and, at this sale, a large selection of traps.

A decorative snow goose by Oliver Lawson, a protégé of the Ward brothers, brought \$2300. A decorative yellowlegs (cataloged as a sandpiper) by his Crisfield neighbor, Lloyd Tyler, sold for \$578 and a well-used deep-bodied Tyler wigeon brought \$523.

A trio of black ducks with carved eyes, intricate bill detail and scratch feather paint from an estate on the Eastern Shore of Virginia caught the attention of many collectors, although no one was able to attribute them to a known maker. A determined Delaware collector bought all three of them. The best of the group, with a 45 degree turned head, sold for \$2420. The other two brought \$2310 and \$2080.

There's always a good selection of Chincoteague, Virginia decoys at these sales. A canvasback and a redhead by Doug Jester sold for \$770 and \$550. A pair of half-sized decorative black ducks by Miles Hancock brought \$578 and a well-used red-breasted merganser sold for \$385. A bluebill by Delbert Hudson hammered for \$330. Two lots by Cigar Daisey, both decorative shorebirds, a golden plover and black-bellied plover, brought \$468 and \$413. A rare miniature shoveler by his Chincoteague



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Turned head black duck with carved eyes, intricate bill carving and scratch feather paint from an estate on Virginia's Eastern Shore sold to a Delaware collector for \$2420.



Decorative swimming snow goose by Oliver Lawson of Crisfield, Maryland brought \$2200.

neighbor Corb Reed sold for \$495.

An unusual high head Canada goose with a two-piece body from the Upper Chesapeake Bay sold to a Virginia dealer for \$660. A canvasback and redhead by Charlie Joiner of Chestertown, Maryland brought \$451 and \$440. An early wigeon by Jess Urie of Rock Hall brought \$319. A goldeneye, the best of a trio of decoys by Percy Smith of Anne Arundel County, sold to an Annapolis collector for \$259. A miniature flying canvasback by Ed Parsons of Oxford sold to a Talbot County collector for \$330.

A preening decorative dowitcher by Virginia carver Frank Finney sold for \$440. A pair of green-winged teal by Capt. Pete Peterson of Cape Charles brought \$413. There was also a large selection of contemporary hollow-carved decoys by George Strunk of Glendora, New Jersey, topped by pairs of ruddy ducks and cinnamon teal at \$440 and \$413. Two pairs of his miniature carvings, red-breasted mergansers and wood ducks, brought \$330 each.

Oyster memorabilia is quite popular on

the Delmarva Peninsula, and Barfield's always offers some choice selections, including the top lot in this auction, a one gallon can by Forest Brand Oysters of Atlantic, Virginia that sold to a Delaware collector for \$4125. In addition to the fine graphics on the can, this company is noted for receiving the first oyster packing license in the state of Virginia.

Barfield's always attracts a good local turnout at these auctions as one never knows just what might show up. Over the two days there are about 400 lots that are offered to online bidders and more than that which are available to only those in attendance. Many dealers take advantage of the opportunity to add to their inventory. Nearly everyone leaves with something.

Although the crowd at this sale wasn't as large as usual, the bidding was spirited, with the auction realizing roughly \$165,000 in total sales, which includes a 10% buyer's premium. Considering the large number of offerings, the auctioneers do an incredibly good job of selling hundreds of items in an efficient manner.



One gallon Forest Brand Oysters can sold to a Delaware collector for \$4125, the top lot in the auction.