

Admission $10 Daily, Children under 12 Free

Welcome to the 38th Annual Core Sound Decoy Festival! We are thrilled to return this year and look forward to an amazing weekend!

General Rules for Carving Competition

1. There are three levels of competition for the IWCA Decorative Divisions of Competition:
   A. Open
   B. Intermediate
   C. Novice

   For definitions, please see IWCA Rules at www.IWFCA.com
2. Carver cannot enter the same entry within the same division in this show more than once.
3. All entries must be made of wood, cork, or stretched canvas.
4. Our show complies with IWCA Rules (www.IWFCA.com). Participants in all IWCA competition divisions must** be current members. For IWCA Competitions and Championships, please visit the IWFCA website for a complete list of rules for each IWCA Division.

2026 IWCA Championship Divisions:

** Current IWCA membership will be required to participate in IWCA categories for 2026.

DIVISION B – IWCA Working Decoy

Best of Show: $900.00, plus plaque and ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $500.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $300.00, plus ribbon.

DIVISION M – IWCA Style Shorebird Competition

Best of Show: $1,000.00, plus plaque and ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $600.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $300.00, plus ribbon

Best, Second Best, Third Best of Show, and Honorable Mention In each class will receive ribbons. All entries will receive ribbons for participation.

2026 Core Sound Decoy Festival Carving Competition Divisions: (Non-Championship divisions)

DIVISION A – IWCA Style Decoy

Best of Show: $500.00, plus plaque and ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $250.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $125.00, plus ribbon.

DIVISION C – IWCA Gunning Shorebird Decoy
(Purchase award 2026)

Best of Show: $200.00, plus plaque and ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $100.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon.

DIVISION D – IWCA Decorative Life-size Floating

Open:

Best of Show: $200.00, plus ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $100.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon.

Intermediate:

Best of Show: $200.00, plus ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $100.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon.

Novice:

Best of Show: $150.00, plus ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $75.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon.

DIVISION E – IWCA Decorative Life-size Non-Floating Competition

Open:

Best of Show: $200.00, plus ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $100.00, plus ribbon
Third Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon.

Intermediate:

Best of Show: $200.00, plus ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $100.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon.

Novice:

Best of Show: $150.00, plus ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $75.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon.

DIVISION F – IWCA Decorative Miniature Competition

Open:

Best of Show: $150.00, plus ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $75.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon.

Intermediate:

Best of Show: $100.00, plus ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $25.00, plus ribbon.

Novice:

Best of Show: $100.00, plus ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $25.00, plus ribbon.

DIVISION G – IWCA Canvas Decoy Competition

Best of Show: $200.00, plus plaque and ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $100.00, plus ribbon.

Third Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon

DIVISION H – H. Curt Salter Core Sound Hunting Decoy Competition

(Purchase Award 2026)

Judging/Entry Rules

- No eyes (inserted or painted), eye sockets, or channels.
- Carving is allowed in lower mandible and where bill meets the face, but no nostrils or nails may be carved.
- No inserts or raised feathers, feather groups, or painted feathers.
- No burning, stoning, or texturing (must be slick).
- Painting shall be done in traditional methods of block painting and no antiquing, airbrushing, or blending.
- No carved flanking or side pockets or relieving of feather groups.
- Must self right when placed in the water and must have a place for securing anchor line.
- Must be made from wood, cork, or canvas.
- There will be no limit on the number or sex of decoys entered.
- All decoys will be judged in their respective category, marsh ducks, diving ducks, geese and confidence. Final decision will be made from 20 feet.

Best of Show: $150.00 Purchase Award, plus plaque and ribbon
Second Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $25.00, plus ribbon.

DIVISION I – Root Head Decoy Competition

(No Purchase award 2026)

Judging/Entry Rules

- Heads must be shaped from the natural fork of a tree branch or root. No bill detail will be allowed except carving to delineate between the upper and lower mandible and can be shaped to represent the species. No glass eyes may be used.
- All duck and goose decoys must be equipped with a lead or iron weight attached to the bottom and a leather strap, nail, or staple, attached for securing an anchor line. All Flatties (silhouette shorebird) type decoys must have a wooden dowel or metal rod and base for displaying.
- Painting shall be simple block style. Stippling, ragging, and antiquing will be allowed. No blending of paint will be allowed
- All decoys will be judged on the table (non-floating) and the final decision will be made from 20 feet. All materials and methods of construction will be assessed from traditional methods used in constructing Root Head decoys for use in North Carolina and Virginia.

Best of Show: $100.00 Purchase Award, plus plaque and ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $25.00, plus ribbon.

DIVISION J – Contemporary Antique Decoy Competition

Judging/Entry Rules

- Open to all carvers. Entries can be primitive, classic folk art, or crude. Contestants may submit floating, non-floating, or stick-ups with standard materials (wood, cork, canvas, etc). Entries will not be floated. Reproductions are discouraged.
- Entries should be dated and bear a maker's mark.

Best of Show: $100.00, plaque, plus ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $25.00, plus ribbon.

DIVISION K – Youth Decoy Carving - YOUNG GUNS

Judging/Entry Rules

No entry fees will apply in the Youth Decoy Carvin Competition Division. Youth may enter decoys in the regular competition, and entry fees will apply.

Youth Class A – (YA) 15 – 17 years of age at time of registration.

Youth Class B – (YB) 12 – 14 years of age at time of registration.

Youth Class C – (YC) 11 and under years of age at time of registration.

Youth Class D – (YD) Bench Class

Complete rules for can be found online at www.IWFCA.com in the rules booklet.

DIVISION L – Kent Hood Traditional North Carolina Decoy Championship

Judging/Entry Rules

For the purpose of this competition, a traditional North Carolina decoy will be defined as one representing a style made in any region of North Carolina before 1950 (see Styles of Decoys below). The carver's interpretation of these styles is encouraged.

1. Must have a place for securing an anchor line.
2. Must be made from wood, cork, or canvas.
3. All decoys will be judged as a group in their respective category, diving ducks, marsh ducks, or geese and confidence, from a distance of 20 feet.
4. Reproductions are prohibited.

Styles of Decoys:

The styles of decoys that could be entered into this category would include, but not be limited to: Currituck, Core Sound, Bogue Sound, Knotts Island, Churches Island, Outer Banks, Portsmouth, Ocracoke, and Hatteras. A Core Sound decoy cannot be entered in both the Curt Salter Core Sound Style Division and the Kent Hood NC Decoy Championship in the same show.

The winning decoys (First, Second, and Third Best of Show) become the property of the Kent Hood Decoy Carvers Foundation, Inc.

Best of Show: $125.00, plus ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $100.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $75.00, plus ribbon.

Explanation of how the competition would work:

All decoys will be judged as a group in their respective category, diving ducks, marsh ducks etc. (not each species). Judges choose the decoys from each category they would like to have returned for the

final judging. The judges will combine the top diving and marsh duck decoys to make their selection of the three winners. Decoys will be judged as they float in the water from 20 feet.

DIVISION N – IWCA Style Decorative Smoothie Competition (John Elliott Memorial Competition) This is a floating competition.

2026 Species: Shoveler Hen

Sponsored by the East Carolina Wildfowl Guild, this competition will be in memory of John Elliott and will be an IWCA Style Decorative Smoothie Shoveler Hen

Best of Show: $500.00, plus ribbon.
Second Best of Show: $300.00, plus ribbon
Third Best of Show: $100.00, plus ribbon.

Additionally, a $1,000 contribution from the ECWG will be made to ALS in memory of John Elliott.

DIVISION O – Wayne Davis Miniature Decoy Competition
2026 Species: Canvasback Drake
(Purchase Award)

Judging/Entry Rules

- Body length can be no longer than 7 inches.
- Painted eyes only.
- Carving is allowed in lower mandible and where bill meets the face, but no nostrils or nails may be carved.
- No inserts or raised feathers, feather groups, or painted feathers.
- No burning, stoning, or texturing (must be slick).
- Painting shall be done in traditional methods of block painting and no antiquing, airbrushing, or blending.
- No carved flanking or side pockets or relieving of feather groups.
- Must self right when placed in the water and must have a place for securing anchor line.

Best of Show: $150.00 Purchase Award, plus plaque and ribbon
Second Best of Show: $50.00, plus ribbon.
Third Best of Show: $25.00, plus ribbon.

Entry Forms are available from the Guild website
(www.decoyguild.com)

Entry and Shipping Instructions:

1. All carvers must complete and sign the registration form before arriving at the competition and include the proper fee.
2. Entry fee shall be $10.00 for the first entry and $5.00 for each additional entry with a maximum of $50.00 for all classes except the following: the fee for Decorative Life-size Floating (open, intermediate, and novice), Decorative Life-size Non-floating (open, intermediate, and novice), and Decorative Miniature (open, intermediate, and novice) will be $25.00 for the first entry and $5.00 for each additional entry with a maximum of $50.00. There is no limit to the number of entries per contestant**.** Make checks payable to the Core Sound Decoy Carvers Guild (CSDCG).
3. Hand delivered entries will be accepted at the following times:

Friday, Dec. 4th, 2026 from 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Saturday, Dec. 5th, 2026 from 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

4. All mail-in entries must be received by Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026
5. Judging will begin at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 5th, 2026
6. ***ALL entries MUST remain IN THE COMPETITION AREA until 3 pm Sunday.***
7. Please review the rules carefully and if you have additional questions, please contact:

Greg Manke, 252-241-3346 or
Davis Springle, 252-342-9811
Core Sound Decoy Carvers Guild
PO Box 89, Harkers Island, NC 28531
E-mail: decoyguild@gmail.com

8. All mail-in entries should be shipped by UPS in a sturdy, carefully packed container. **DO NOT pack entries using any type of styrofoam peanuts or similar packing product.** All mail-in entries MUST include a UPS PREPAID RETURN LABEL. (Labels can be printed from a home computer at www.ups.com).
9. Each individual entry shipped should have a tag securely attached, listing the species and the competition class entered. Please put the envelope containing the registration form and prepaid return shipping material inside the shipping container.
10. A completed registration form and proper fee must be included with allentries. If your IWCA dues are not up to date you must send a renewal fee.

Send UPS entries to:

Core Sound Decoy Competition
c/o Davis Springle
172 Ingram Road
Beaufort, NC 28516