THE NEW AGRARIANS
ORIGINS OF MODERN CONSERVATION ETHEIS INTERSECT AT NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY EXHIBIT

1955 fishing trip is included in the exhibit, as is Hoover’s 1931 fishing camp on the Rapidan and Grover Cleveland’s 1902 volume entitled A Defense of Fishermen. Theodore Roosevelt’s original handwritten manuscript for an article in The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine is fascinating. Written in July of 1886, his careful notations and his editor’s edits speak volumes about his appreciation of the hunt and field sports.

Artist’s & Author’s Role
A first edition of Izaak Walton’s The Compleat Angler, or The Contemplative Man’s Recreation, Being a Discourse of Fish and Fishing, Not Unworthy the Perusal of Most Anglers, printed in 1653, rests beside a collection of successive editions. Among the most published books in the English language, The Compleat Angler is second only to the Bible.

One edition, printed in 1844, includes illustrations based on beautiful watercolors by John Abson. A large folio of those original watercolors is also included in the exhibit.

Delightful paintings that illustrate the appreciation artists of all eras have for the natural world and its inhabitants create a lovely context for the progression of literary thinking about conservation.

Especially charming are the paintings of Robert McCauley and a Mt. Vernon, Washington, native whose highly respected work which he calls Visual Literary presents a moment in time that conjure “a moment when nature is in limbo, with a future to be determined,” rather than presenting a doomed future for the natural world.

His painting of a salmon titled Hide Your Good Work, perfectly conveys his immense ability to render animals exquisitely in an eccentric world of historical references and symbolic gestures.

Robin Hill’s Buff-Breasted Pitta, is an original sketch with notations and color studies. Hill is from the prominent naturalist, writer and artist whose work for the book, The Waterfowl of North America that was published on the 25th anniversary of the World Wildlife Fund.

Conservation and its origins so pervasive that this distinctive exhibit that one’s appreciation for field sport and the wild woods escalates axiomatically.

Suddenly, centuries of thought and concern intersect to create a taut network of respect and dedication to preservation of the natural world.

This is an exhibit everyone who loves the land should see.