



midwest  
**D•E•C•O•Y**  
*collectors association*

# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2004

Founded 1966

## WISCONSIN BEST IN CLASS DECOYS PROVIDE OUTSTANDING EXHIBIT AT 2004 SHOW



*Reindahl Mallard*



*Reindahl Pintail*



*Dettman Pintail*

### IN THIS EDITION

Feature Story	1
President's Corner	2
From the Board	3
Views at the Show	4-5
Display Decoys	7
From the Editor	6
Special Interest	8

The Wisconsin display was a treat and the voting showed our delight. Out of the 39 birds that were exhibited, 28 received votes in our "Favorite Decoy" vote on Saturday. The top 11 vote getters were contributed by 10 different collectors. Here is the final vote:

1. Reindahl Pintail Drake
2. Reindahl Mallard Drake
3. Dettman Pintail Drake
4. Mandt Homme Canvasback Hen
5. Gromme Canvasback Hen

6. Sieger Canvasback Drake
7. Moak Canvasback Drake
8. – 11
  - Davis Coot
  - Evans Green Wing Teal Drake
  - Reindahl Canvasback Drake
  - Schultz Wood Duck Drake

Those in attendance on Saturday were extremely interested in these birds and we are thrilled by your response to this display at the show. Next years exhibit will feature Illinois River decoys.



# MIDWEST DECOY COLLECTORS

## OFFICERS

Herb Desch	President
Roger Ludwig	Vice-President
Tom O'Key	Treasurer
Ed Wojciechowski	Secretary

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dick Brust	Tom O'Key
Rose Claussen	Randy Root
Herb Desch	Rick Sandstrom
Alan Haid	Joe Tonelli
Steve Handevitd	Jim Wierzba
Roger Ludwig	Ed Wojciechowski

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Midwest Decoy Collector's is to foster the hobby of decoy collecting by attracting new collectors, by seeking out and preserving old decoys, gather information about old carvers and their methods of historical records, and hold an annual show for decoy collectors and carvers for the exchange of information about their origin.

The Midwest Decoy Collectors Association is a nonprofit, educational organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois. It invites membership to all persons who have an interest of any kind of collecting decoys and sporting collectibles.

## DUES

Dues are \$15.00 a year, or \$40.00 for three years, payable on January 1. This entitles members and a guest free admission to the April show, newsletters and an annual directory listing all members. The mailing address label indicates what year's dues have been paid. Please mail your dues with checks payable to M.D.C.A. to the following address:

Tom O'Key • (847) 842-8847  
310 Woodview Road  
Lake Barrington, IL 60010-1731

## WEBSITE

www.midwestdecoy.org

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## Milwaukee Show Restarted

Summer has come and gone and now the fun time of the year is back. Fall is here, the ducks and geese are in the air and the talking and planning for the upcoming season is busy. Hunting and the decoy season is beginning. Several of our members have fired up to restart the Milwaukee Show and I'm glad. I'm looking forward to the first decoy show here in the Midwest. The Milwaukee Decoy Show will again be held the first Friday and Saturday in December, 2005. I am anxious to see my decoy friends again. It promises to be a great restart with an extensive auction list and plenty of room-to-room trading.

## Midwest Association Communications Improved

I would like to recognize the contributions that Rick Sandstrom has made to our organization. Rick is in charge of communications and produces our newsletter and website.

Our newsletters have improved in content and quality helping us to increase our outreach and member involvement. Rick is our Webmaster ([www.midwestdecoy.org](http://www.midwestdecoy.org)) and the Editor of our newsletter. I think that he has done a spectacular job. The last issue of the Newsletter featured great color photographs from the April

Show. I have received many favorable comments from our members about the improvement in this publication. You have told us that you like the pictures so we will keep them coming.

Please make Rick aware of any other ideas you may have and feel free to provide content for the Newsletter. If you haven't visited our website, you should. It has all the data you need about our club and the April Show.

## Reach out and Promote our Association

A number of you have asked how to best help our club. There are two significant opportunities; promote the Show in your area and sign up new members. Reach out and make contact with the local Outdoors Editor of your local newspaper. Provide them with the press release for our upcoming Show.

If you need help with the contact, call on one of the board members. Send us their name and we will send them sample newsletters and support items. Donna Tonelli can provide you with copies of the Press Release for distribution. More importantly, sign up some new members. They will add to our network and increase the demand and support for our association.

Enjoy the fall season, Happy Holidays and I look forward to seeing you all soon. Happy Collecting!

*Herb*



# NEWS FROM THE BOARD

2004 has been a very busy year for our association. The board has been active with several important issues. Our priority has been on improving the quality of the association. It is clear that we have made measurable progress toward that goal.

## Improve Communication

Our first goal was to improve the quality of the communications with our members. Our plan for improvement has three areas focused upon delivering that change.

First, we have moved to improve the quality of our newsletter and website in order to more actively engage our membership.

Second, we have broadened our board membership to gain increased understanding of our members' opinions. Each board member is tasked with outreach to a segment of our membership.

Third, we have added the new collector's seminar and the annual display to increase interest in the show.

## Improve Governance

We were founded in 1966 and many changes have taken place since that founding event. Our original documentation needed update and we have actively engaged in updating both our state and

Federal status to insure that we are current with all the present day rules and guidelines. This activity has taken energy from several of our board members and should be completed very soon.

## Update and Revise our Financial Plans

We have taken many steps to build a stronger financial situation. The offering of multiyear memberships has increased our input and member visibility. The increase in table support has helped offset our show expenses. Our new budgeting process has helped improve our operating efficiencies.

Next we are moving to negotiate better cost efficiency with all of our vendors including Pheasant Run. This will help provide better value to our members.

## We need your Input

If you have ideas or information or want to volunteer to help the association, contact any board member. We need your help.

## Make Your Show Reservation Now.

Our 40th show will be special.

*Happy Holidays!*  
*Your Board*



*Steve Handevidt shows his delight as we get ready for show set-up.*



*Tom Bosworth and Jim Wierzba did a great job with this year's display.*



*Dettman Mallard*



# VIEW FROM THE SHOW





# VIEW FROM THE SHOW





# ELEVEN DIFFERENT WISCONSIN DECOYS GET VOTES FOR MEMBERS FAVORITE



*Moak Coot*



*Davis Coot*



*Mandt Homme Can*



*Shaw B.B.*



*Lowry Hen*



*Gromme Can*



*Labota Ring*



*Schultz Woody*



*Reindahl Can*



*Resop Coot*



*Sieger Can*



*Strey BB*



*JJ Worm BB*



*Strey Can Hen*



*Moak Can*

### Share your collecting passion

Fall is my favorite time of the year. In Iowa it lasts a long time and gives us great hunting opportunities. I have the great fortune to be able to hunt over hollow wooden decoys that are a joy. Last weekend I had the opportunity to take a youngster along to sit in the blind and share the experience. The discussion and questions were fun and a great reminder of my past. Why wood? Why are they different? Those ducks make a whistling sound; those ducks are talking to each other. Some woodies and mallards landed right in the decoys. We whispered and decided that they were pretty and would just watch them swim around for a while. More joined, we decided not to shoot as they were swimming all around our wooden blocks. Picture perfect! A beautiful sunny morning, very little wind, decoys coming back from feeding. The boy, our golden, and the decoys all combined to create a perfect memory. It was tremendous reminder to all of us that we have the responsibility to share the legacy of our collections. Herb reminds us that we need to reach out and get some one else involved. Please take time to share, there are lots of decoys emerging from around the country and they help tell our history. I am constantly reminded of the interest in antique decoys every time that I take the time to share with someone new. The interest and awareness are only beginning to grow. This year's auction results clearly point out the growing interest and increased

understanding of the special character of our passion.

### Wooden decoys attract pheasant

We had a funny happening this fall and I can't help but share. Two of my friends were sitting in the decoy blind arranging things for the afternoon shoot. This blind sits in the timber on the northeast side of the pond that has developed from the beaver dam that holds back about 18 inches of water. Lots of birds were flying around and the boys were practicing their duck calling. The ducks were busy looking for food and not real interested in resting on the pond. Lots of flybys but most birds are landing in the cornfields to the north. Suddenly some shots to the northwest and here comes a pheasant gliding toward the decoys. It keeps gliding and finally cups and folds its wings and splashes right in the decoys. There it is lying dead in the decoys. The boys send out their lab to retrieve this rooster and return to the lodge to share their experience. It starts with "You won't believe this! Have you ever seen a pheasant decoy? It must be those wooden decoys!" We all laughed for a long time. The story has become the talk of the hunting camp this fall.

### 2004 has been a great year for our club and for decoy collecting

All of the measures are looking up. Happy Holidays and Happy Collecting!

*Rick*



*Resop Teal*



*Gromme Can*



*Pelzer Widgeon*



*Lowry Mallard*



*Schultz Merganser*



# SPECIAL INTEREST

---



*Evans G/W Drake*



*Evans G/W Hen*

---

## 2005 SHOW IS APRIL 29 & 30

---

### Midwest Decoy Collectors Association

312.337.7957

312.337.9679 fax

[www.midwestdecoy.org](http://www.midwestdecoy.org) • [mdc@midwestdecoy.org](mailto:mdc@midwestdecoy.org)

PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Cedar Rapids, IA  
Permit No. 860

midwest  
**D·E·C·O·Y**  
collectors association  
5 E. Scott Street, #3  
Chicago, IL 60610

