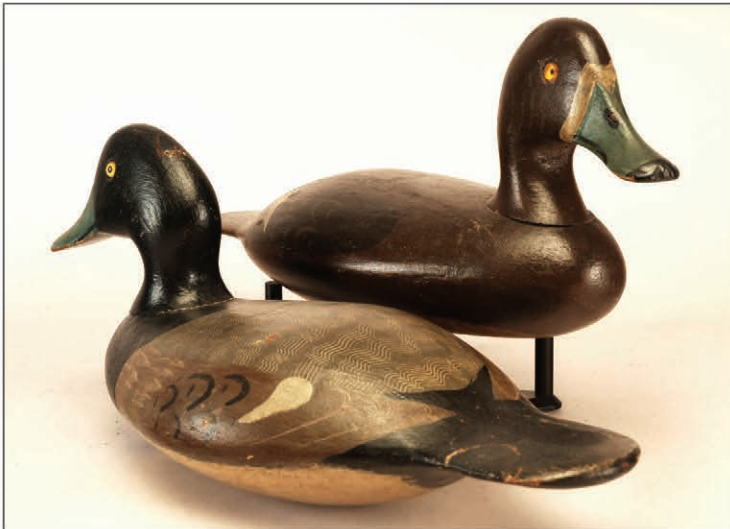


*Mason Snipe
was part of
'06 Display*



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

2007 ANNUAL SHOW WEEK PLANS ARE COMPLETE



Member Display will feature Pre-1930 Wooden Factory Decoys.

Ken Trayer is leading the effort to create this year's display. Since we focused upon Mason Decoys in 2003 we will not include them in this effort. There are a great group of decoys being assembled including Dodge, Evans, Stevens, Wildfowler and every major influential factory. The discussions are in process to figure out how to assemble the 40 key decoys that will display the significant history and craft that make up this important area of collecting. We are sure that our members will enjoy and appreciate the content of this year's effort.

Seminars will provide great opportunity for learning and discussion.

Three seminars are planned this year. We have moved the time to Wednesday in order to eliminate some of the potential conflict with other activities. Alan Haid will kick off the agenda with a presentation and discussion of Decoys of the Mississippi Flyway. Ed Wojciecki and Gene Davis will conduct a presentation, display and discussion of Evans factory decoys. Joe Tonelli will follow with a presentation and discussion of the Mackey Collecting Years. These seminars are sure to attract a good audience.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES AND RENEWALS ARE DUE – SEND NOW

MIDWEST DECOY COLLECTORS

OFFICERS

Herb Desch	President
Roger Ludwig	Vice-President
Tom O'Key	Treasurer
Steve Handevidt	Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Bosworth	Roger Ludwig
Rose Claussen	Peter Marsh
Ken Cole	Tom O'Key
Herb Desch	Rick Sandstrom
Alan Haid	Joe Tonelli
Steve Handevidt	Jim Wierzba

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, gathering information about old carvers and their methods of historical records, and holding an annual show for decoy collectors and carvers for the exchange of information.

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 in 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

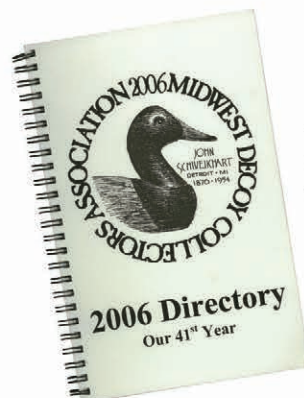
Anticipation! This is the time of year we have a lot of things to anticipate. If you like football, it doesn't get any better than some of the recent games. Nearly all of the hunting seasons are now open. I know I eagerly anticipated the opening of the duck season. However, I anticipated more ducks than I have seen. The decoy show season is now moving into full swing. I know I am excited about seeing long time friends and hopefully the opportunity to add a decoy or two to my collection. Those of us that work on your Show are busy anticipating the tasks that need to be completed before the next National Show at the end of April. We are rethinking how we promote the Show. Ken Trayer is busy putting together an outstanding decoy exhibition. This time the exhibit will focus on wooden factory decoys. Rose Claussen has lined

up two interesting seminars that will be held on Wednesday, so as not to conflict with the Show. I also anticipate growing our membership so there will be more committed people to come the Show. This is where all members can help. Please invite fellow collectors that are non-members to join!

There is a life event that we don't typically anticipate. As our group ages, a number of us are entering Chapter Eternal. We have not noted those passing in the past. However, if a member will send us a note memorializing a departed member, we will include this in the newsletter. Please try to keep your comments to a paragraph or so.

Hopefully, this newsletter will arrive before the Holidays. All of us hope you and your families have a Joyous Holiday Season. See you at the shows.

Herb



Lou Schifferl has created our pin and logo artwork since 1976. Make sure to thank him for his great work.

ABOUT YOUR ASSOCIATION

2006 was certainly a year of quality and growth. The Midwest Decoy Collector's Association has more active members today than at any other point in our history. We have members in all states, Canada, Mexico and Switzerland. We had 35 different states represented at last year's show. The **member exhibit** has created considerable interest and allowed us to capture some great photos to share with the membership. Our **seminars** have given us an even better way to discuss the current issues and open up greater dialogue within the membership. These activities give us the opportunity to make our web and newsletters more valuable to all and continue to support the tremendous momentum that decoy collecting has gained. **Friday night's buffet** has become an event not to miss with Pheasant Run providing great quality food and the opportunity to talk and network with any of our over 400 members that attend.

2006's show week was an active and high energy event. By **Monday** afternoon there were over 40 rooms set up and the trades, discussions and networking was in high gear. Monday night was the one time that you feel that you didn't miss too much if you went out for a good dinner. **Tuesday** morning starts with early breakfast at one of the favorite restaurants, then the

major occupation of our rooms began. The trading activity is busy in the parking lots and halls as the newcomers are questioned in the lobby, "What did you bring for me?" Those that drive from different distances are arriving at various times and more and more rooms open each hour. Our sample showed an average of 57 decoys and a similar amount of sporting collectibles per room. This makes for twenty to thirty thousand items to see. You can easily see the planning as different groups bring out their beer and pizza, wine and cheeses or bourbon and barbecue. Pizza delivery teams and room service are active and the ice machines came under assault. Those in the know made a quick trip next door to Super Target for supplies, food and ice. Computers are logging in and the hotel data center got tested as their wireless band width was loaded. **Wednesday** arrivals took our occupancy of over 440 different rooms and the activity was relentless as people walk the halls looking to compare, match, trade or buy that gem that just showed up. Some doors are open, then closed and lots of negotiations are in play. The first seminar included a good discussion of paint and different techniques to analyze decoys. Wednesday evening was the first preview of the auction birds and the chance to work the crowd

and get a serious look at those birds that fit the various collecting interests and compare these with the assortment in the rooms. A brief preview of the auction, share the food and beverages, then head back to the rooms and plan the strategy. People were up late talking every subject that you could dream. **Thursday** begins the auction, show check in and membership renewal. The Evans group met to share and compare birds. Thursday after the auction slowed as people went to find real dinner and discuss the strategies for various birds. **Friday** requires lots of energy as the auction continues, the show and display setup starts and more birds arrive for the 386 tables at the Megacenter. Friday evening ends with the networking buffet. The call makers are busy all week and their Friday night pizza event is fun. **Saturday** morning had many things going at the same time. Seminars were going, identification and silent auction was active, members were viewing and voting their favorite decoy in the exhibit and the show is on-going. The show is over by 3 and people are packed and gone by 4, but a large number are still at the hotel. By now a serious dinner and real rest are top priorities. It was noted that trades and sales are still taking place on **Sunday** as people finish packing and head for home.

THE MEMBER DISPLAY IS A BIG HIT!



2003 focus was
Mason Decoys



Tom Bosworth and Jim Wierzba led
Wisconsin Display in 2004

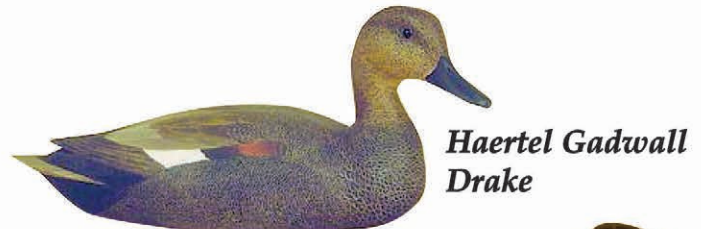


**Reindahl Pintail
Drake**

Reindahl Mallard Drake



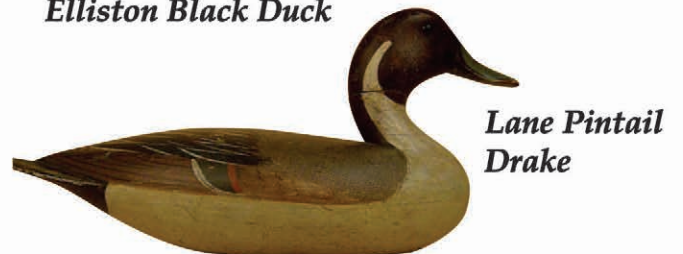
**Dettman
Pintail
Drake**



**Haertel Gadwall
Drake**



Elliston Black Duck



**Lane Pintail
Drake**



Tom Okey led the 2005 Illinois River Exhibit

2006 MIDWEST DECOY COLLECTOR'S MICHIGAN DISPLAY FAVORITES

The Midwest Decoy Collectors Association's annual display of decoys has become a special event that our members appreciate and eagerly anticipate. Our organization has learned that this event has become a great way to create enhanced knowledge and give an opportunity for everyone to view a group of the best decoys from a particular area. Because these decoys come from a diverse list of collections, this display becomes a unique exhibit that produces the special opportunity to compare 40 "best in class" examples.



The MDCA's 2006 exhibit featured Michigan Decoys as Ken Cole, Jim Aikin, Patty Aikin and Len Carnaghi recruited and arranged 40 outstanding examples. Our membership was thrilled with the display, briefing and handout produced to support this event. We are pleased to share pictures of the member's favorites accompanied by some background information on each of the carvers. Our summer member newsletter has pictures of all of the Michigan Decoys that were on display.



Nate Quillen (1839-1908) Redhead Drake c. 1885. This decoy was in rare original paint and displayed the extraordinary craftsmanship that the Quillen decoy represents. Joel Barber, the pioneer decoy collector and preeminent author, carefully analyzed Quillen decoys because of the unique combination of design, construction, quality, proportion and feel that they produced. Our members voted this example as their number 1 favorite.

2006 MEMBER FAVORITES CONTINUED...



Nate Quillen (1839-1908) Blue-winged Teal Pair c. 1890. These decoys are the only known examples of Quillen blue-winged teal in original paint. This pair is easily the rarest of the rare. The extensive wood aging that was used to produce these decoys has helped them stand up so well over time. These decoys tied for our members' second choice.



Mason Decoy Factory (1896-1924) Wood Duck Drake c. 1905. Premier grade Mason, solid-bodied with snakey head style. In excellent original paint, this decoy is 12 inches long. This outstanding example tied for second place.



Tom Schroeder (1885-1976)
Owl c. 1950. This is an extremely rare and important example displaying outstanding craftsmanship and paint. This carver won many important carving contests. This decoy was our members third place selection.

Our association is pleased by the response to this annual display and appreciative of the efforts that our members put forth to prepare and share each year's display. The 2007 display will be focused upon Antique Wooden Pre-1930 Factory Decoys and the activity to produce this is exhibition has already started.

*Our sympathies to the families and friends
of these members who passed in 2006.*

Allan Bryant

Bob Michelson

Jim Neal

John Purvis

Lad Zidek

ATTEND OUR 2007 SHOW



Seeing your friends and enjoying the week's events makes the St. Charles event special. On the left is Harry Jobs, Guy Di Placido, Robert George and Lou Schifferl. On the right is the Guyette & Schmidt team Dale and Gary Guyette, Frank and Vicki Schmidt and Jim Julia. Make your 2007 plans now.

Midwest Decoy Collectors Association

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