

midwest

# D•E•C•O•Y

collectors association

## NEWSLETTER

*Cameron McIntyre Gadwall*  
*From the Modern Carver Display*



### RAIN SHOWER FAILS TO DAMPEN SPIRITS AS 43RD ANNUAL EVENT DELIVERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



Our annual gathering has become a collector's paradise. We are arriving earlier in the week every year as this year started with 10 rooms on Sunday and 88 rooms on Monday. This was twice as many as last year. The room to room trading is active and with over 300 rooms (many with two exhibitors) it is difficult to see everything. Throw in the various hospitality events, wine tastings, late night chat sessions and other networking opportunities it takes lots of energy to take it all in. Wednesday got very active with two seminars, several show planning meetings and the Guyette & Schmidt auction preview. There is barely time to squeeze in meals. By Thursday, most have seen the auction offering and are scouting rooms to compare and network with old friends and, of course, running back and forth between the auction room and

the trading rooms. Friday is as full as possible. Setup for the member displays starts early. The display team is busy with Joe Engers from Decoy Magazine shooting photos while the team is also completing the final touches for the member displays. This year included the Canadian Antique Decoy display and our initial display of modern carvers. It resulted in 81 outstanding decoys from our members' collections that had never been seen in one offering and those in attendance were active trying to take in everything. The second day of the auction is active and we are moving into the 380 tables reserved for the two days of the show. Since about 1/3 of the tables are new people for the week, activity is intense when the show opens its doors. This year we added over 100 attendees from the Antique Gun Show.

## MIDWEST DECOY COLLECTORS

### OFFICERS

Rick Sandstrom	President
Jim Wierzba	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:

*Herb Desch • (312) 337-7957  
6 East Scott Street, #3  
Chicago, IL 60610-2321*

### WEBSITE

[www.midwestdecoy.org](http://www.midwestdecoy.org)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### Adios, Auf Wiedersehen – Farewell

Prior to the Board of Directors meeting in April, I decided not to stand for re-election as President. It was time for someone else to have all the fun! I would not have been able to devote the time to our organization without the support of my wife, Carolynn. Not only did I have her support, but she created a team and ran the registration function very efficiently over all these years. I would also like to thank all the MDCA members for allowing me to represent you as your President for the past twelve years. It has been a great run. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know many of you. The friendships we make are what contribute to our hobby being so much fun. I have witnessed many changes to our collectors' zeal during this time. Certainly the growth in prices is apparent to all. This is good news to some but has kept others from pursuing the hobby. The growth of our organization is also notable.

It has more than doubled during this time period. This is one of the accomplishments of which I am most proud. The annual show has also changed and become far more complex from a standpoint of planning and making it happen. Activities such as the Newsletter, website, registration, exhibit of members collections, identification & valuation of collectibles, setting up the MegaCenter for nearly 400 tables, the educational seminars, the Friday night buffet, etc all require someone to "take the bull by the horns" and make it happen. Fortunately, many of you did step up and have made it a wonderful event.

At the Board of Directors meeting, Rick Sandstrom was elected President. Rick is extremely qualified having been involved in all facets of the organization over the past several years. He has been our voice to the membership as Newsletter Editor and webmaster and also been responsible for external communications. I know Rick will do a great job. Jim Wierzba was elected to the position of Vice President succeeding Roger Ludwig. Thanks Roger for your service. Please congratulate Rick and Jim. The forward focus for my own association activity will concentrate on membership growth.

Carolynn and I consider ourselves very fortunate to have made many friendships through our association with MDCA and we are looking forward to the opportunity to see all of you at future shows and events. Happy Collecting!

*Herb*



## ABOUT YOUR ASSOCIATION

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Here is some of the information about the recently completed 43rd Annual Show. First, it has become a very active week of activity. We love our decoys and it shows. Our members are arriving earlier in the week each year as we had 10 rooms on Sunday and 88 on Monday this year. This is about double the previous year's total for those nights. We filled all of the selling rooms and in addition occupied 93 additional room nights in the tower for a total of 1170 room nights at Pheasant Run. We do not count the numbers from the Hilton Garden Inn, which holds some of the overflow or some of the other local hotels that help with the housing needs. Wednesday's seminars are attracting a consistent audience and we intend to continue these events. We attempted to count all of the members that attended this year and get better counts of the non-member attendance to assist our show planning. 690 of you attended. 567 non-members paid for admission and 110 came from our first year of collaboration with the Antique Gun Show across the street. It is nice to see that about 2/3 of our active membership is in attendance at the show. Remember that we do not count spouses or children in our numbers so you can estimate total attendance at 2000-2200. We filled 350 tables this year and 208 attended the Friday night special Pheasant Run Buffet. Our Canadian Antique Decoy Display featured 59 birds and the newly started Modern Carver Display featured 22 decoys. The identification and valuation activity was busy the entire time and has become a very important part of the activities. I talked with many of you during my tours of the rooms and the tables and it seems that we are very happy with the activities of the week. The biggest

problem seemed to be being able to find time to connect with everyone and being able to take in everything. With over 300 active selling rooms and 60% of them being shared by multiple people it is challenging to see everything and everyone that come to St. Charles.

Herb and Carolynn deserve special recognition for the wonderful contribution that they have made to your association. It was clearly a team effort by the two of them and has allowed the association and show to evolve into a class opportunity to meet any number of diverse and interesting collectors. The wonderful events this year are a direct result of the fine leadership that Herb has given the organization. The Association owes a special thank you to both of them for their hard work and dedication.

After some discussion with Herb, I decided to accept his encouragement to become the next President. I do understand his coaching that there is lots of thankless work and that it is hard to make everyone happy. I consider being selected to be the next President a privilege and am pleased to accept the challenge. I collected my first decoy in 1960 at the age of 12 from my Dad's duck hunting camp in Minnesota, still have it and have been at it ever since. It is just plain fun!

We do need help! We need more volunteers to help do things during the year and at the show. Contact me if you are interested.

My wife and I have made wonderful friends through collecting and enjoy our association with Midwest Decoy. We look forward to seeing many of you in the near future. Enjoy the summer and Happy Collecting!

*Rick Sandstrom*



# CANADIAN ANTIQUE DECOYS

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*Whale  
Canvasback*



*Warin  
Blue-Winged Teal*



*Reeves  
Blue-Winged Teal*



*Harper  
Green-Winged Teal*



*Unknown  
Redhead*



*Chrysler  
Green-Winged Teal*



*Reeves  
Pintail*



*Loney  
Blue-Winged Teal*



*Reid  
Bluebill*



*Hart  
Green-Winged Teal*



*Warin Goose*



*Rennardson  
Redhead*



*Martin  
Redhead*



*Morris  
Canvasback*



*Unknown  
Bufflehead*



*Fernlund  
Black Duck*



*Burke  
Mallard*



*Nichol  
Bluebill*



*Nichol  
Black Duck*



*Laviolette  
Gadwall*





# CANADIAN ANTIQUE DECOYS

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*Black Breasted  
Plover*



*Curlew*



*Thomas  
Eskimo Curlew*



*May  
Harlequin*



*Anger  
Blue-Winged Teal*



*Tulley  
Ring-neck*



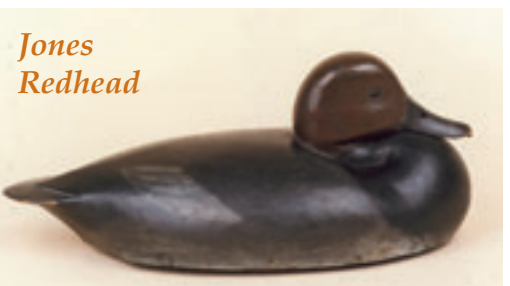
*Golden Plover*



*Davern  
Black Duck*



*Croft  
Canvasback*



*Jones  
Redhead*

*Duesberry  
Black Duck*



*Catton  
Canvasback*



*Rundle  
Bluebill*



*Ramsey  
Brant*



*Andress  
Black Duck*



*Beck  
Mallard*



*Anger  
Redhead*



*Lake  
Black Duck*



*McInes Rig  
Canvasback*





# CANADIAN ANTIQUE DECOYS

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*Chambers  
Blue-Winged Teal*



*Hutchins  
Hooded  
Merganser*



*Dolsen  
Canvasback*



*Unknown  
Wood Duck*



*Davis  
Bufflehead*



*Unknown  
Whistler*



*Obed  
Eider*



*Brown  
Bufflehead*



*Wells  
Bufflehead*



*Backman  
Merganser*





*LaBoeuf  
Hooded Merganser*



*Nichol  
Merganser*



*Pringle  
Bufflehead*



*Warin  
Pintail*



*Oliver  
Brant*



*Tisdale Rig  
Pintail*



*Reeves  
Pintail*



*Paquette  
Canvasback*



*Unknown Toronto  
Mallard*



*Wells  
Blue-Winged Teal*





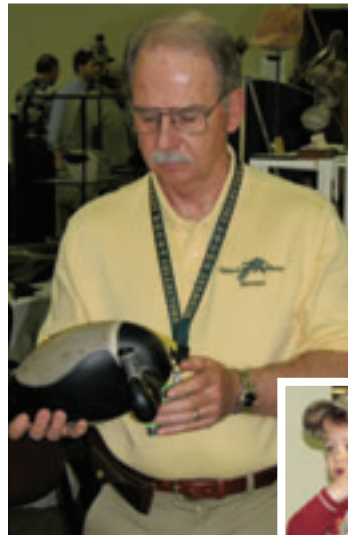


Thanks to all of our  
volunteers and attendees!



'08 SHOW PHOTOS







*R. D. Wilson*



## MODERN CARVERS

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*McIntyre*



*McIntyre*



*Valley*



*Valley*



*Capriola*



*Capriola*



*Legaux*



*Legaux*

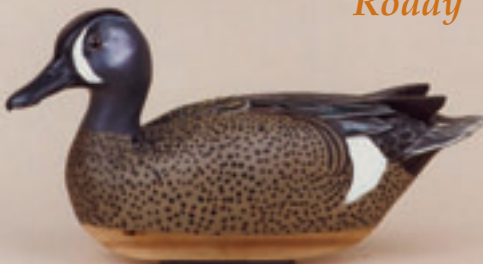




*Roddy*



*Roddy*



*Heinemann*



*Hanson*



*Hanson*



*Heinemann*



*Humberstone*



*Humberstone*



*Carnaghi*



*Carnaghi*



*Koch*



*Koch*



*Meneely*



# LOOKING FORWARD

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## Thanks and congratulations.

First, I want to extend a special thanks to all the volunteers that helped with our 43rd Annual Event. It was a tremendous success by all measures. Next we all need to know that our membership is at the highest level of all time. Our association has grown to the point that our members come from almost all states, the District of Columbia, most Canadian Provinces, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The Midwest Decoy Collector's Association has become a National organization with global reach. Our press information was picked up by over 7600 outlets this spring.

## Communicate.

Our growth is good, but it always creates gaps, issues or needs. Make some time to

share your view with the MDCA leadership. Share with a Director. Our board is comprised of volunteers and comes from various collecting areas across the country. Here is a picture of our team that we took at last year's board meeting.

## Finances.

Several things are stretching our budget. We have added many more activities to the calendar and the costs of mail are escalating. The simple thing would be to raise dues as many of you have suggested. We have reviewed the status and believe if we could add 150 new members that we could manage the economics. So one more time please help us solicit new members, you understand both who the potentials are and the value of membership.



Back row - Tom Bosworth, Ken Cole, Roger Ludwig, Joe Tonelli, Tom O'Key, Herb Desch, Jim Wierzb, Steve Handevdt

Front row - Peter Marsh, Rick Sandstrom, Rose Claussen, Dick Brust, Alan Haid



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## Review and confirm next year's plans.

We had to refuse requests for both selling rooms and tables due to the initial reservation plans. Due to many things within 10 days of the show we saw 120 room nights cancelled or changed and had about 20 table requests changed or cancelled. We understand the need to change and make every effort to be flexible. The issue is that we had to turn away requests that could have been accommodated if we had the advantage of the best information on everyone's final plans. Be selfish and make your requests early so that we have time to explore all possible ways to help everyone.

## Antique Decoy Member Display.

Thanks to Paul Brisco and his support team for assembling a nice flock of Canadian birds. We all are learning from these exhibits and it is helping us achieve our mission of education. Next year will focus on Long Island Decoys and Tim Sieger is leading that effort. 2010 will focus on Southern Decoys and 2011 will highlight Louisiana Decoys.

## Modern Carver Display.

Our initial effort at a modern carver display was a hit. Thanks to Jim Wierzba for getting it off the ground. It gave us a chance to show off the wonderful talent within our membership. Expect more. We'd like to hear your thoughts about how to improve this activity. There is certainly a great opportunity to introduce new carvers and their works.

## Welcome to our newest members.

Since we printed our directory we have had 75 new members join MDCA. It is great to see more collectors' join the association.

## Check our website.

We are adding material all the time. The member display birds from the past five years are shown for your reference and review. Any of our web material is downloadable by simply right clicking the image and saving to your computer or file. If you have suggestions or needs just drop us an e-mail so that we can discuss. [www.midwestdecoy.org](http://www.midwestdecoy.org)

## Help us distribute our material.

We would appreciate your help to distribute our material at your local events. We have material for handout at events and have \$1 off coupons to help new attendees attend our show. In addition, many local sporting shops are looking for material and an antique decoy display seems to be a hit. It is also a great way to find more decoys if you leave your card with the store. Another great way to find more decoys is to contact your local paper and help them do an article on antique decoys and sporting collectibles. It gets your name and the subject out for wider distribution. I have had a significant number of recent new finds as a result of these two actions. Old decoys are out there just waiting. Happy Collecting!

# SPECIAL INTEREST

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Dennis Edwards (left) always brings a diverse group of collectibles and a special spirit.  
Joe Engers (right) working his magic to help us record the display.

2009 - APRIL 24 & 25    2010 - APRIL 23 & 24    2011 - APRIL 29 & 30

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## Midwest Decoy Collectors Association

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