



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

**2009 SHOW PLANS ARE COMPLETE AND WILL FEATURE
LONG ISLAND ANTIQUE DECOY DISPLAY AND EXPANDED
CONTEMPORARY DECOY DISPLAY**



Our membership is very active developing the plans and activities for the 2009 event week. Each year we try to expand the events in response to the needs of our members. This year we are expanding the contemporary display as a result of the strong response to last year's effort. Jim Wierzba and Phil Jones are leading the effort for this expanded display. Our plan is to offer a dedicated table display area for our contemporary exhibit. We are dreaming of the potential for a National Carving Event for Working Decoys associated with our show. We would appreciate your opinions on this subject.



This year's antique member display is focused on decoys from Long Island. The member display has become an event that should not be missed and this year will be no exception. Alan Haid and Tim Sieger are leading the member effort for this display and it will be a great contribution to our show. The decoys on display will include William Bowman, Andrew Verity, Obediah Verity, Thomas Gelston, John Dilley, William Cochran, etc. Joe Engers has helped document the display each year and the pictures from all previous displays are on our web gallery for your review. Take a look and enjoy.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES AND TABLE RESERVATIONS ARE
DUE NOW – 2009 DIRECTORY WILL PRINT IN MARCH**

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Increased membership is the key to our continued improvement. We have seen 12 new members this month alone and it is a clear indication that we have lots of opportunity to find more participants for this organization. Our members are from all regions and the annual directory is invaluable for collectors. The message is clear, come join us – meet some new people – share your knowledge – help preserve the history and have lots of fun. The talent and perspective of the special people that carved decoys and created our folk art is certainly a National treasure. Help us find more members and invite someone new to the show. They can't understand the opportunity without attending and will definitely enjoy our event.

We have completed a long term agreement with Pheasant Run to protect our event space and the rooms to support our plans. Pheasant Run has added a new mid level restaurant and remodeled the C and D wing rooms this year. We have discussed how we can add to the

activities and bring more on site for our members in future years. As always, we need your input and perspective as we grow to make sure that we are helping you enjoy collecting. If you have ideas, I'd like to hear from you.

We are working the technology to see how we can provide better member support and increase the distribution of our message. Our experiments have included face book, Craig's list, linkin and Twitter. Check our web as we are constantly adding content. The decoy pictures from our annual members' displays are becoming a tremendous resource and we are hopeful that we will be able to print something in the future.

We are a volunteer organization that runs with no overhead, so we are always in need of help. We need more volunteers to help at the show and during the year. We'd love to hear from you if you can lend a hand.

A special thanks to Herb Desch and Tom O'Key for the work that has allowed us to achieve our 501(c) 3 non-profit permanent status this year. It is an important milestone for our long term success.

I have been fortunate to attend many shows all over the country and always meet interesting new people and get to see great decoys. The passion and quality of the serious collector is a joy. My wife and I consider ourselves fortunate to have met some of our dearest friends through collecting. Thanks for your support. Your board has developed a nice 2009 event that will be lots of fun. Happy Collecting, see you at the show.

Rick



SEMINARS HELP US WITH OUR EDUCATION MISSION AND SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION

2004 "Decoy Collecting 101"

Presenters: Donna Tonelli
Herb Desch
Bill Claussen



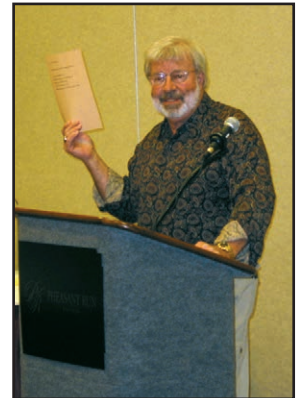
2005 "Understanding The Auctions Process"

Presenter: Frank Schmidt



"Illinois River Decoys"

Presenters: Donna Tonelli
Bill Claussen



2006 "Old Decoys and Original Paint"

Presenter: Stan Van Etten



"Michigan Carvers and Their Decoys"

Presenters: Jim Aiken
Ken Cole
Len Carnaghi

2007 "Decoys of the Mississippi Flyway"

Presenter: Alan Haid



"Identification of Evans Decoys"

Presenters: Ed Wojciehowski
Gene Davis



"The Mackey Years"

Presenter: Joe Tonelli



2008 "Pictures, Stories & Memories"

Presenter: Dick Brust



"How To Start a Decoy Collection"

Presenters: Bill Claussen
Bill Dodge
Herb Desch
Vaughn Walters



Contact Rose Claussen to Volunteer for future
Seminars

2009 WORKING AGENDA

Monday

- Early Bird Check-in
- Room to Room Trading (2pm – 10pm)



Tuesday

- Room to Room Trading (10am – 10pm)

Wednesday

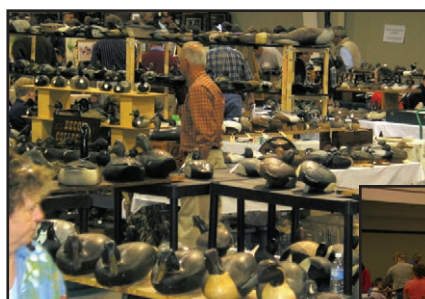
- Collecting Seminars
 - First Seminar (10:00am) – “The Decoy Carvers of Michigan’s Saginaw Bay” with Bill Stout
 - Second Seminar (3:00pm) – “Important Facts every Collector should Know” with Vaughn Walters
- Room to Room Trading (10am – 10pm)
- Guyette & Schmidt Auction Preview & Networking Reception (6:00pm – 8:00pm)



Thursday

- Auction Preview (8:00am – 10:00am)
- Membership and Show Registration (9:00am – 3:00pm)
- Guyette & Schmidt Auction Day One (11:00am – 5:00pm)
- Room to Room Trading (10:00am – 10:00pm)





Friday

- Membership and Show Registration (10:00am – 2:00pm)
- Guyette & Schmidt Auction Day Two (10:00am – 2:00pm)
- Midwest Decoy Collector's Annual Show Day One (2:00pm – 8:00pm)
- Long Island Antique Decoy Member Exhibit (2:00pm – 8:00pm)
- Contemporary Carver Invitational Display (2:00pm – 8:00pm)
- Midwest Decoy Members Networking Buffet/Dinner (8:00pm – 9:30pm)

Saturday

- Midwest Decoy Collector's Annual Show Day Two (9:00am – 3:00pm)
- Long Island Antique Decoy Member Exhibit (9:00am – 1:00pm)
- Contemporary Carver Invitational Display (9:00am – 1:00pm)
- Free Identification and Evaluation Clinic (9:00am – 1:00pm)



2009 EVENT INFORMATION

The countdown has started for our 2009 gathering and our membership is clearly active. The room reservations are coming in and we are on track to fill the resort. As of February 20th we had reserved over 290 rooms with 1218 room nights. In addition, more than 115 rooms will fill on Monday – a new high. The total is slightly ahead of last year at this point. I have been calling people who attended last year that didn't have their reservations in the Pheasant Run system to make sure that we know exactly who is planning to return and when. Sometimes you get too busy and forget to turn in the reservation form or it somehow gets misplaced. You should have received a confirmation letter from Pheasant Run by now. If not, call them immediately to confirm your plans. Room assignments are going to be tricky this year with the high level of attendance and demand. There are many members returning that have not been at the events in many years.

Pheasant Run has completed the remodel for C and D wings which includes comfort beds, flat panel TV's and complete room redo. It is very nice. Make sure that you bring a cover to place under the bed display items.



The table letter went out in January to 357 members who had displayed at the show during the last three years. The early bird table price deadline is March 15th and we already have 97 members taking tables with an average of 1.6 tables per member. Get your check to Jim Wierzba now as we usually sell out and the table assignments are starting. Remember that about 100 of the show tables are usually from people who do not participate in the room trading.

Our show promotion activities are in process as we are advertising in 8 major publications and newspapers and have taken tables at many shows to distribute coupons and membership cards. Our portable display has been travelling to various locations to improve awareness for our organization. If you don't have coupons or membership cards get some and make sure that you invite more collectors to join our organization and attend the annual event.

Note! New offering to all members. We are adding some advertising to this year's directory in order to enhance the information in this guide. Rates are \$200 for a full page, \$100 for half page and \$50 for a business card listing. If you are interested in a listing contact Herb and send your check with the digital listing information to arrive not later than March 20th.

Several members are bringing new books to the show including books on Dodge, Stevens and George Boyd. It is nice to see that our membership is so active developing the history in more areas.

2009 SHOW OVERVIEW

Room Trading



Auction



Auction Preview



Show & Trading



Identification and Evaluation



Contemporary Display



Antique Long Island Display



SPECIAL INTEREST



The Decoy Divas plan a gathering each year during the show.
A special thanks from the Board and the entire membership to Herb and Carolynn Desch
for their wonderful contributions to the success of Midwest Decoy.

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

Midwest Decoy Collectors Association

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