

2012 Member Display  
will be New York  
State Decoys



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

## OUR MEMBERS CREATED A MEMORABLE 46TH ANNUAL EVENT IN 2011



Brian Cheramie created a memorable seminar on Louisiana lures. It was a special peek into the culture and its craft. Brian was so gracious to create a handout and presentation that including sound and considerable history. The seminar was a prelude to the excellent member display of diverse Louisiana decoys and those that had the opportunity to attend both events learned a significant amount about this unique American Folk Art. It was outstanding. For those who missed the seminar, Donna Tonelli has created great documentation of the event that can be viewed by going to: [edecoy.phanfare.com](http://edecoy.phanfare.com)  
Thanks Donna and enjoy.



Jim Schmiedlin brought over 80 of his personal hunting decoys that were on display at the show and spent the entire time talking with members about his special creations. Jim created a spectacular display that is still being talked about by those who had the opportunity to view and handle his decoys. The opportunity to visit with Jim and experience his passion was a rare chance to see the reason that he is such a special talent. The fact that decoys were there from many rigs and decades was unique learning for all. Either one of these experiences was worth the time to attend St. Charles in 2011.

# MIDWEST DECOY COLLECTORS

## OFFICERS

Rick Sandstrom	President
Jim Wierzba	Vice-President
Bill Dodge	Treasurer
Steve Handevidt	Secretary

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Bosworth	Roger Ludwig
Rose Claussen	Peter Marsh
Gene Davis	Tom O'Key
Herb Desch	Rick Sandstrom
Bill Dodge	Joe Tonelli
Alan Haid	Jim Wierzba
Steve Handevidt	

## 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 \$25.00 a year, or \$70.00 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

I needed to delay this newsletter in order to allow several things to resolve and be able to provide a better perspective for our membership.

First, let me share some of the information about last year's show. We started the week with the resort over booked as we had room reservations for 512 separate rooms and the resort has a total of 476 rooms. I overbook, just like the airlines, since we have many changes and cancellations and we need to be flexible to accommodate the diversity of our membership. We ended up occupying over 1000 room nights at Pheasant Run. It is important to note that 37% of the rooms this year had new occupants. With over 300 selling rooms and people coming in and out during the week it is very difficult to see it all and get any sleep. Anyone who attended knows that room trading was busy with several folks reporting that they had the best event ever of all shows that they attend. We all know that you must bring great stuff for the critical and sophisticated crowd that attends St. Charles and those that did were rewarded. We needed 388 tables this year to accommodate everything at the show and our members have commented on the wonderful Louisiana exhibit, contemporary carver displays and demonstrations. It takes a lot of volunteers to pull off the St. Charles experience. Thanks to all of you.

I have had several questions about our financials and want to share a brief summary. Each year at the board meeting we review our

operating plans and the associated budget to support the association. We operate with a annual budget that is balanced each year. Our revenues from mainly the show and membership were \$49,985 and we spent \$49,545. Everything that we take in goes back to the membership in some form of value. We print the directory and newsletters, manage our website, use twitter and facebook, conduct the seminars and show plus manage to make annual charitable contributions to worthy organizations. This past year we contributed to the Ward Foundation, Lakeview Museum and the Perdew foundation. I will provide more detailed financial information in the next newsletter. If you have any questions contact either Bill Dodge, our treasurer, or myself and we will be glad to discuss any area in detail.

Pheasant Run Resort has experienced some financial difficulty which was covered in the press beginning last April right before the show. There was a legal filing regarding the mortgage and a restructuring. This is very concerning to all of us and we have been in contact with the Pheasant Run management. We have been assured that these matters are resolved and the plan forward is being executed by the current owner's team. Herb and I will have the first of several planned meetings with the owner very soon. This economy is challenging for all and we are vigilant to manage for any changes.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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Over 700 of our members actually attended the events this year out of a current membership of about 1200. We are pleased to see such great support. We are still chasing several hundred members that didn't attend and therefore missed registration and the opportunity to keep dues current. Please get your dues in as we need everyone's support and participation. Check the address blocks on the front this newsletter to see your status. In addition, we are sending a reminder in an effort to help the renewal activity. Since we are sending this newsletter out to many non-members as part of our outreach program, no date means we need you to join the association and begin sharing the benefits. If your listed date is 2011 and before, please send your renewal. \$70 for three years is preferred as it helps lower our administrative work.

We are collaborating with several other non-profits to build a more complete collectors list. I have merged lists from several sources in order help get the information out about our mission and decoy collecting. The expanded list now has 2900 active collectors and is being exchanged with the contributors. We are hopeful that this effort will help raise interest in all events. It is obvious that the most amount of decoy collecting knowledge is at the Nationals each year and the opportunity to talk with those in attendance and see the vast and diverse migration of sporting collectibles at St. Charles makes attendance critical.

Confirm your reservations with Pheasant Run now.

Each year we get considerable feedback on what is working and what needs attention. This year Gene Davis led the challenge to streamline and improve our registration and your feedback tells us it worked. Thanks Gene. Something that will get attention for next year is to make the show setup more accommodating. The show set-up has become very workload intensive with the member display, contemporary display, carver's corner and constant show table demand changes. Additionally, Joe Engers and Tom Bosworth are frantically trying to capture images of the 100+ special decoys that have arrived for display. We need more help and are looking for a volunteer to step up to handle the show tables. Call me if you have interest. It is a great opportunity to talk to everyone that is coming to set-up at the show and find out what is coming. It is a major role in the success of our activities and we need your serious consideration to help the cause.

I would be remiss if I didn't take time to thank Stephanie for the wonderful rendition of our anthem that she delivered during setup. It stopped everyone in their tracks and received a huge round of applause in appreciation.

Our country is losing some of our best. This is true for our organization as the likes of

Houman, Johnston, Robertson, Tyler, Anderlik and many others have passed. The contributions and knowledge of these folks has been tremendous and it is a key reason that we are so lucky to have such rich tradition and history. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends.

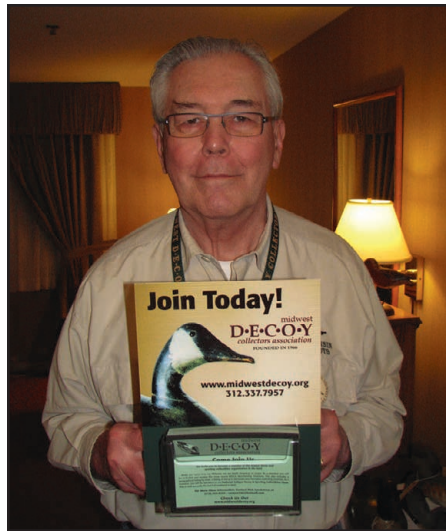
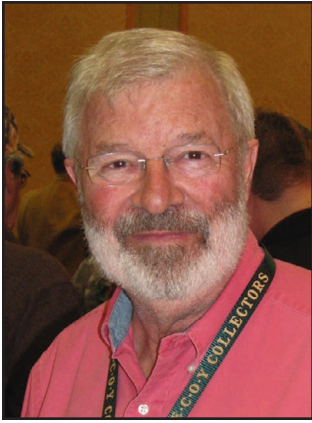
Like any part of American history the rich and diverse decoy traditions require lots of work for preservation and communication. We have actually created a large volume of knowledge that resides in many places. The critical issue is that much is still being discovered, must be extracted from many places and people and more importantly must be documented so that we can communicate to the next generation. Membership is critical to being successful in our endeavors. Please take a few minutes to share the importance of our mission and organization with someone and ask them to join and share our fun and passion. It is crucially important to keep growing. Each of you understands who the potential members are and how to communicate the value of the Midwest Decoy Collector's Association. We need your help!

Happy Collecting and thank you for your passionate support! It looks like the fall duck season could set some records, good luck!

*Rick*



## ROOM TRADING & AUCTION PREVIEW ARE ACTIVE!







## SEMINAR, MEMBER DISPLAY & SHOW WERE SPECIAL.





# 46TH ANNUAL SHOW WAS A TREASURE FOR ALL.





# Make Plans To Attend The 47th National Antique Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show

HOSTED BY THE MIDWEST DECOY COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION



*2012 Exhibit will feature  
Upstate New York Decoys*

**APRIL 27 - 28, 2012**

**Friday: 2pm-8pm • Saturday: 9am-3pm**

Pheasant Run Resort • St. Charles, IL  
Open to the Public • \$5.00 Admission

- 400 Table Show
- Antique Upstate New York Decoy Display
- Contemporary Carver Display
- Free Identification & Appraisals
- Collector's Seminar
- Room to Room Trading
- Guyette & Schmidt Auction

**Join MDCA today for only \$25!**

Membership includes:

Free admission to the annual show, subscription to all newsletters, and the annual membership directory.

## EVENT SCHEDULE

### Tuesday, April 24

Room-to-room trading

### Wednesday, April 25

Room-to-room trading

10am: Seminar - Tom Eckert - Upstate New York Decoy Discussion

6:30pm - 8:30pm: Welcome Reception and Auction Preview Sponsored by Guyette & Schmidt

### Thursday, April 26

Room-to-room trading

Book Preview and Author Signing

8:30am: Membership Townhall

9am: Member Registration Begins

11am: Guyette & Schmidt Auction

### Friday, April 27

10am: Guyette & Schmidt Auction

2pm - 8pm: Table Show & Decoy Displays in the Mega Center

8pm: Networking Dinner Buffet

### Saturday, April 28

9am - 3pm: Table Show & Decoy Displays in the Mega Center

Free Identification and Appraisals

**For Up-To-Date Show Details:**

**[www.midwestdecoy.org](http://www.midwestdecoy.org) • 312.337.7957**



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

6 E. Scott Street, #3  
Chicago, IL 60610

## SPECIAL INTEREST

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Marty Hanson and Cameron McIntyre will team to carve a decoy at our 2012 show.

**NEW YORK STATE DISPLAY IN 2012 - APRIL 27/28**

**Midwest Decoy Collectors Association**

312.337.7957 • 319.364.8556 fax • [www.midwestdecoy.org](http://www.midwestdecoy.org) • [mdc@midwestdecoy.org](mailto:mdc@midwestdecoy.org)