



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

## ST. CHARLES EXPERIENCE CONTINUES TO GROW

St. Charles has its own character each year. Our 45th Annual event attracted a very diverse audience to enjoy the wide range of opportunities. You will notice as you scan the pictures the consistent presence of smiles. The St. Charles experience is just plain fun. It's a chance for fun with old friends, to make new friends, to compare stories from the hunting seasons and to continue that never-ending search for those decoys.

**Room trading started early.** There were 95 selling rooms occupied by Monday. Thursday peaked at 288 selling rooms. Everyone knows that the economy is staying tough, but the formula for success at St. Charles is easy. Bring things for the serious collector because they are here. Your price is under intense pressure and you must deal with the reality of the current economy. We only had one or two antique dealers buying this year, when normal times would have had 20-25.

**Seminars were well attended.** Joe and Donna Tonelli shared a unique discussion about Joe French and teamed with Gene Davis to

produce a great handout that immediately sold out. The first event was followed later in the day by Bill Dodge and Ron Sharp's discussion of Dodge, Mason and Petersen decoys. We are all learning from their research and discussions.

**Auction activity was up.** The Joe French sale brought lots of interest and that was evident at the pre-view. It is clear that the demand was stronger for this offering.

**Southern Display dazzled.** Dick McIntyre with lots of help from Ed Johnson created a memorable display that was a delight and was hard to stop observing.

**Contemporary Corner is popular.** Our member carvers have created something special. Not only did they display their latest work, but attendees were able to observe and discuss techniques ranging from carving to painting.

**Table show was diverse.** We had 355 tables with 102 of the tables from people who were not at the hotel during the week. Saturday's joint stimulus effort with Guyette & Schmidt was a success.

# 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
Gene Davis	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 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

## Thanks to all who delivered the St. Charles experience.

We continue to grow and add to our annual gathering and our 45th event was no exception. Known as "The Show" or "The Nationals" it is clear that we love our gathering and the depth and quality of the St. Charles event is special.

## Carver's Corner is growing nicely.

Several years ago a few of the board members got together to discuss how to bring new energy and members to the association and the show. Jim Wierzba came up with the idea to create more focus on our member-carvers and it has become a winner. This year's effort was great with lots of learning and smiles.

## Member exhibit is the treasure.

Alan Haid resurrected the member exhibit with the Mason effort and this display has become a National treasure. Dick McIntyre gave us all a special gift with the display of Southern creations this year and our members were pleased. You could easily see the positive response as you watched the expressions as people viewed the exhibit. The styles and forms were unique and showed a depth of character.

## Guyette & Schmidt reached out for improved collaboration.

There has been a natural conflict growing between us and the auction activities. Our members have been sending more and more items to market. Last year these activities took too much time and we needed to make some changes. G&S scaled back the preview reception and made a \$2000 contribution to the club which we gave away in a Saturday raffle that was spent at the show with 20 different members.

In addition, our member exhibitors were featured in a special hand-out that went to all who received the auction catalog. Both organizations are committed to continue and grow this collaboration. I want to communicate my personal thanks to Frank and Gary for listening and stepping up.

## We need more new members.

It was clear this year that the economy has had a large impact on all hobbies and decoys are no exception. Our members are aging like our society and we've got to improve our outreach to find new members.

**Dues are going up.** We last raised our dues in 1989 and we have significantly increased the amount that we deliver and have had a significant increase in postage. We have considered going digital, but our membership has made it clear that they want the directory and newsletters delivered. We will have detailed information on the dues increase soon, but if your dues are expired please make them current immediately.

**Volunteers needed.** We are continuing to grow the activities and need help both during the year and during show week. We'd love to have your help, just tell us how you can contribute or ask and we will suggest some areas. It is a lot of fun and you will learn more about decoys and collectors.

We are working on adding another collector's event during the year and would love to hear from you on the subject.

Happy Collecting and Best Wishes for a Great Summer!

*Rick*

# ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

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## **Membership.**

Our membership continues to grow and diversify. We have about 1100 current members. However, we missed over 200 renewals. Herb is going to develop a committee to reach out and bring more focus to our membership program all year long. Volunteers or program ideas please contact Herb.

## **2010 Show Results.**

We filled Pheasant Run again this year and with some juggling managed to accommodate most requests. Total nights in the selling rooms totaled 1146 and began early in the week. The show had 355 selling tables with 102 of them taken by members who did not stay at Pheasant Run during the week. We partnered with Guyette & Schmidt to conduct a raffle on Saturday during which we gave away incentive money to be spent at the show. It resulted in \$2000 being spent with 20 different table holders. We had 833 members & their spouses plus 557 paid public attendance for a total of 1390 at this year's show event.



## **Board changes.**

Tom O'Key has been Treasurer since 1999 and done a wonderful job of supporting both the growth of our membership and developing a significant improvement in our services. He was a key leader for the successful application for Federal non-profit status. Tom suggested that we need to split his current role in order to keep up with the needs of our organization. Tom is going to focus on getting our computer and system support improved. We are fortunate that Bill Dodge has accepted our invitation to lead Treasury/finance. We are in the process of completing the transition and it should be finished this summer. Welcome and thank you to Bill for agreeing to lead

this important activity.

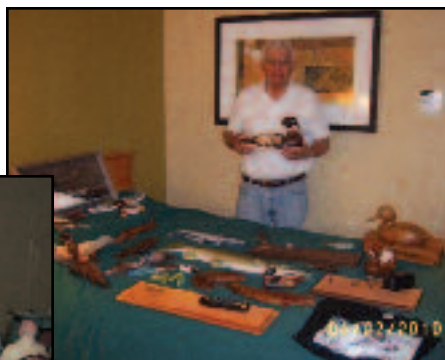
Thanks to both Tom and Gayle O'Key for their significant contributions to our success.

## **Marketing and Promotion.**

It is clear that we have to improve if we are going to continue to grow our membership and the attendance at show week. We have seen the show attendance reduced in recent years. There are many reasons including the fact that our members have begun arriving earlier and earlier in the week. At the same time the numbers of decoys available has increased while the weak economy has stressed all discretionary expenses. In addition, we are seeing an increase in the daily requests for help with identification and evaluation. This is a clear indication that more treasures are coming out. This summer we are going to review all of our activities, the resources expended on each and the leadership in order to refocus our priorities on those things that will help us grow. We value your input and perspective and would appreciate any ideas. Expect more information on this subject in the next newsletter.



ROOM TRADING BEGINS THE WEEK ON MONDAY.



SEMINARS SHARE SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE WITH OUR MEMBERS





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AUCTION PREVIEW HAS BIG FOLLOWING

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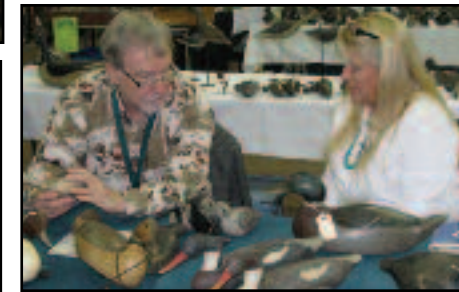
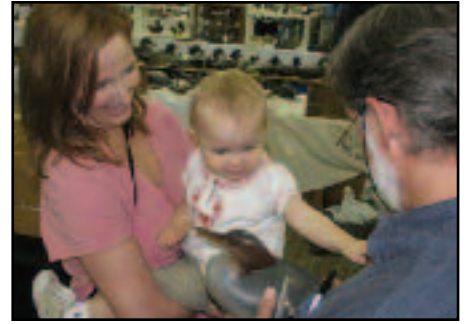
JOE FRENCH  
COLLECTION RECEIVES  
STRONG RESPONSE

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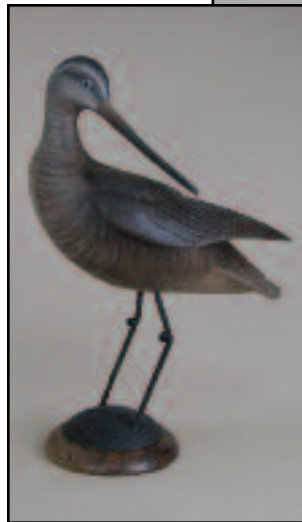
## SHOW OFFERS TREMENDOUS DIVERSITY



CALLMAKERS COMPLETE  
MANY ACTIVITIES  
DURING SHOW WEEK.



# SOUTHERN MEMBER DISPLAY DELIVERS A THRILL



## CONTEMPORARY CARVERS LEAD GROWTH



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

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

## SPECIAL INTEREST



OUR MEMBER DISPLAYS WILL FEATURE LOUISIANA IN 2011  
AND NEW YORK STATE IN 2012. MARK YOUR CALENDARS.  
2011 – APRIL 29/30    2012 – APRIL 27/28

**Midwest Decoy Collectors Association**

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