



*Jim Schmiedlin
will display
birds from his
hunting rigs*

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

THE 46TH ANNUAL EVENT IS READY FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT!

Each year the St. Charles experience has its own character. We get feedback each year; have a couple of summer planning discussions and try to add something new each year. This year brings two new things – first the contemporary focus brings a surprise and we are having a member town hall gathering. The contemporary surprise is that Jim Schmiedlin is bringing 80 of his old personal hunting rig decoys to display and will be at the show. We are excited about this event and hopeful that it will begin a trend that allows us to highlight a carver from our membership each year. Our town hall is a simple idea to help communications, improve registration/membership renewal and help new members meet people quickly. In the background we are continuing to work to improve the St. Charles experience. Rooms are crowded again. 30 days out we have reservations for 422 rooms and 1208 room nights. Capacity at Pheasant Run is 463 total rooms. There have been lots of phone discussions on how to move things around in order to accommodate everyone. You should have

your written confirmation in hand and will get final room assignments within a short time. The member seminar and display will feature Louisiana decoys. Brian Cheramie is leading this years' antique decoy display. This display continues the wonderful tradition that Alan Haid restarted in 2003 with the Mason display and has produced the unique opportunity to view the best decoys from each region. These decoys are printed in our newsletters and can be viewed on our website. We are working to produce a 50th anniversary publication that will include all of these wonderful treasures in one full color book. Tables are at 330 and we are on track to sell out again as we usually get to capacity at about 365 in the Megacenter.

2011 will be another special event at St. Charles. We already know that three different estates will be offering things for the first time in new room selling. Thanks for all your kind words and support. See you at the show.

Rick

MIDWEST DECOY COLLECTORS

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Jim Wierzba	Vice-President
Bill Dodge	Treasurer
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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

MEMBER INFORMATION

Dues. We had to increase the dues to accommodate the increase in postage as it has gone from 24 cents in 1987, which is the last time that we increased dues to 44 cents today. In addition, our printing costs have increased as the directory grows and we have transitioned our newsletter to full color in order to adequately display the antique decoys. Please make sure that your dues are up to date even if you aren't attending the show each year as your support is critical. Look at the mailing label to see your renewal year.

Membership. We have started a new member drive and several of you have volunteered to help. To help the value for new members we are giving each new member a copy of both Decoy and Hunting & Fishing Collectible magazines along with the newsletters and association directory. In addition, we are trying to assign a local member coach to expedite the engagement and increase the new member experience.

Deadlines. Everything is due. Membership renewals, room and table reservations and ads for the directory are all due right now as everything is on deadline. In addition, check out the directory and make sure that all your information is correct including email address.

New Outreach Program. We are continuing to get an average of 5-8 requests each week for help with identification, appraisal and a variety of other needs. Shortly after the show this year we will begin sending these requests out to our members via outbound email to any that are interested. We are

seeing nice growth in this activity as our web gets more traffic and I expect that we will continue to discover new treasures. Look for more details after the show.

Interesting trend. We have seen a pattern at many of the shows in the past year. Serious buyers will shop everything before they buy and then they aren't buying until the end after they have evaluated everything. I have seen it at every show including St. Charles last year. In addition, we attracted many new people last year with our Saturday promotion and they purchased some significant items from many of the tables' right before the show ended.

Volunteers needed. We are searching for more volunteers to help with membership, promoting the association, updating the web, handling the tables, running the show and responding to member questions. Interested, then speak up and join in the fun.

Some tips. There are so many rooms at St. Charles that it is difficult to see everything. Some rooms have three different groups in them during the week. There are lots of choices so you must bring good stuff to sell to this discerning crowd. Make a list or something to promote your offerings to help people find you. We will post several boards around the resort to help people find your information.

Reminders. The show has over 100 tables that are people that are not in the rooms during the week. Many people pack different things for the rooms and the show. The call makers have a very busy week with judging, an auction and meeting.

Make Plans To Attend The 46th National Antique Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show

HOSTED BY THE MIDWEST DECOY COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION



*2011 Exhibit will feature
Louisiana Decoys*

APRIL 29 - 30, 2011

Friday: 2pm-8pm • Saturday: 9am-3pm

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

- 400 Table Show
- Antique Louisiana 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 26

Room-to-room trading

Wednesday, April 27

Room-to-room trading

10am: Seminar - Brian Cheramie -
Author & Collector - Louisiana Decoy
Discussion

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

Thursday, April 28

Room-to-room trading

Book Preview and Author Signing

8:30am: Membership Townhall

9am: Member Registration Begins

11am: Guyette & Schmidt Auction

Friday, April 29

10am: Guyette & Schmidt Auction

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

8pm: Networking Dinner Buffet

Saturday, April 30

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

Free Identification and Appraisals

For Up-To-Date Show Details:

www.midwestdecoy.org • 312.337.7957



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

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



2011 Features
Louisiana Antique
Display & Seminar

Show Dates:

April 29 & 30, 2011 • April 27 & 28, 2012 • April 26 & 27, 2013



AUCTION
ROOM TRADING
SHOW
SEMINARS
DISPLAYS