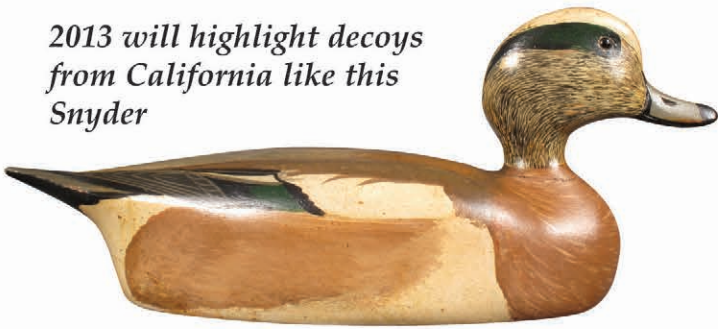


2013 will highlight decoys
from California like this
Snyder



D•E•C•O•Y

collectors association
NEWSLETTER

NEW FINDS GENERATE COLLECTOR EXCITEMENT IN 2012



2012 gave us a wonderful opportunity to see some fresh new items that captured the attention of all collectors. First, one of our collectors found the Oscar Peterson plaque on the left on eBay. No one could have understood its character until you saw it in person. It drew a lot of attention at the preview and even more attention when it finally hit the auction block. I found myself looking at it and then walking away and going back to absorb more of its character. Sold for \$123,000 it commanded a value that reflected just how special it is. I'm sure that as the information gets out about this wonderful item we will see more of these special efforts surface. Oscar Peterson did a wide range of items and this plaque is certainly special.



I can easily see Marty, Cameron or another carver doing this type of item for their residences, shops or hunt spaces. I have been in several hunt clubs that could sponsor such work. On the right is the Beckhart duck call that came to the show for appraisal. It is definitely a wow. Carved on all sides with amazing detail it is definitely a sight to behold. It went to auction this summer and commanded a record bringing \$103,500 in spirited bidding. Both of these items are great examples of the terrific American Folk Art that is still being discovered across the country. I hope that the call will inspire some of the call makers and call collectors to new levels of energy in their efforts.

MIDWEST DECOY COLLECTORS

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

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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

I hope that everyone has had a successful hunting season for both wildfowl and decoys. It seems that many things have gotten in the way of our newsletter cycle this year. I apologize. The amount of work that the association would need after the show was under-estimated. We are taking steps to resolve these issues. I think it is a sign of the times and expect that it will continue for a while as our economy tries to find it's legs in the new world of intense competition and excessive government debt around the developed world.

For those of you who were able to attend you know that our last show was successful with good attendance and considerable activity for everyone. The trend in attendance and buying has continued down with the economy as people are adjusting to tight times. This year we ended up with 945 room nights at Pheasant Run which compares to 1138 in 2009. I see the trend with more room sharing, a shorter week for some and 370 room nights at other locations. We all know that the show has slowed as we pack things earlier into the week.

Ted and Judy Harmon were very gracious to sponsor the room-to-room live music each afternoon and it generated many smiles as folks sang and danced to tunes of their choice. Our picker pass was successful in that we had 410 new people attend, register for the raffle and got 27 of those folks to join as new members. We owe a special thanks to all who volunteer. Vaughn Walters and Andy Schoneich volunteered to host a learning event at the member's meeting on black

lighting and it was well attended and created an excellent discussion. I am very pleased that Stephan O'Brien and Colin McNair from Copley Fine Arts not only volunteered to sponsor the event, but brought some items including sporting art to share at the meeting.

The annual member display has become a treasure. Walt Hallbauer and Tim Eckert teamed up to create an excellent presentation and display of New York State. These old decoys are special folk art. We have many members who are modern day artists that learn from the old masters work and create outstanding things that are very collectible in their own right. In fact, many new collectors are more comfortable to start with a modern carver that they meet at the show. I think that our contemporary exhibits this year were noteworthy. The layout boat with rig, carver corner display, demo classes and on site carving were excellent. I want to thank Cameron McIntyre and Marty Hanson for taking time to share their talent with us and give us the chance to see them in action on Saturday. It was fun! Roger Ludwig and Joe Tonelli lead the walk in appraisals each year and this effort provides many with help identifying and evaluating their treasures. Many members bring things in for identification and evaluation, too. This year we all got a great surprise as a special Beckhart duck call wondered in that was later sold this summer at auction for \$103,500. A record for calls!

I want to thank Frank, Gary and Jon and their team for the support and tremendous effort that Guyette,

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Schmidt and Deeter put into the week. Their activities are well done and the attendance shows as our members take full advantage of the activities. It is important to remember the opportunity that they create to network and see all the folk art. In addition, they have a significant table display at the show, make a special donation that we use for show raffle money to help attendees acquire things at the show. This year they were very gracious to contribute \$2700 to the club from the sale of the Beckhart call sale. I want to thank Joe Tonelli for all his efforts as this would not have been possible without his leadership and contribution. Our collaboration has grown with Guyette, Schmidt & Deeter and that is excellent.

The resort has been a worry for us with their restructuring, but they executed very well and we got the best support that we have ever received in the Megacenter. This is critical because we are all worn out at week's end and this activity is important to our efforts to develop new collectors. Jimmy Smith is our PRR event manager and we could not be nearly as successful without his efforts and advice.

We are very careful with our finances as we know that we must continue to provide solid value and support a diverse range of interest. Our revenues this year were \$53,300 and our expenses are estimated to finish at about 51,850. Our cash balance has grown to \$83,000. We are preparing for system updates on the web and membership database. We need a better set of electronic tools to

allow us to provide better value and give members more flexibility. The post office has given us problems with lost things and we don't expect that to improve. We would like to renew dues on line and build the content on the web that provides for capability like an updateable National event calendar.

Looking forward we are working plans to continue to expand the St. Charles events and broaden our collaboration as we continue our efforts to grow our value and membership. We are working specifically with Zurko Promotions to invigorate the show and with the Call makers to expand that relationship.

For several years now we have been evaluating our name as we have been expanding across North America and are getting a much more diverse request for support. We are considering National or North American Decoy Collectors Association to more accurately reflect our membership. We are going to be careful with any name changes as there are always unintended consequences and we don't want to lose our place as the collector's event. If you have any opinions, please contribute your thoughts to any director.

We need more volunteer help to support an expanding newsletter, website revamp, show support and to grow the ad presence in the directory. Any interest would be welcomed and we have a list of projects that need attention.

All it takes is an email or call to get engaged.

It is a great time to be a collector as there are record amounts of good new things available and the pricing has changed to reflect the economy. We are seeing a continued growth of interest and requests for help as more things are discovered and made available.

There are many ideas that we have tested that seem quite successful at engaging new collectors. The sporting store displays have created excellent interest and contacts are growing monthly. We purchased extra copies of magazines and they help as folks can take something home to read that seems to get them to the internet sites. Sporting club presentations always seem to uncover more interest and new finds. We have old newsletters to hand out at your local shows. Need help with your local efforts, let us know.

Happy Collecting!

Rick



Matt and Jaci Spielman's little joy at the show!

IT'S A WHOLE WEEK OF FUN ACTIVITIES!



Ted Harmon with the Decoy Unlimited Display room in the B building.

Danny Combs and Tom O'Key squeezing the sawdust out of this old bird during their exam.



The auction preview is a great opportunity to see your friends and examine a wide range of artifacts. It is one of the events during the week where everyone stops to gather and it is the first opportunity to see the wide range of attendees that are at St. Charles all at once.



Jeff and Joyce Hay's daughter showing one of her many favs.



Jim Julia leads the bidders during one of his many shifts at the auction.



Dave and Jeannette Kneebone wait for their opportunity during the auction.

The smiles tell it all!



Bill Masengarb always has lots of shorebirds and other unique items.



Debra Gahn with her friend Barbara Sorenson. Barb and Hal were the force behind one of hobby's first publications.





There is always a wide range of items that are offered each year at the show. Each year over 100 of the tables are presented by people who do not attend earlier in the week.

Roxanna Walters visits with guests at their table at the show.



Kristin Lehmkuhl with a Moak decoy from her bluebill display at the show.



Julie and Bill Rigsbee caught visiting with Paul in a rare moment of quiet. Julie and Bill bring so many things that I'm not sure that they get all of them unpacked before the end of the week.



Matt Bryant with Steve and Linda Handevidt at their table at the show.



Stephan O'Brien and Colin McNair with the Copley Fine Arts show display.

Alan Haid discussing a Mason canvasback at in his display.



It starts on the phone before the show. Trading initiates in the parking lot at arrival, proceeds to set-up in the rooms, reconnects at the auction preview, pauses while we engage the auction and finishes the week at the show. The opportunities are endless including the seminar, dinner with friends, endless wine tastings in many rooms, Rickie's cooking, member display,

rooms, rooms and the show. It is very difficult to see all. For example, last year we had a member return after a 15 year absence and sell over 400 decoys from his room in the golf wing. The beauty is that there is something for everyone and you don't even know what to expect. St. Charles offers different things for all levels of attendees.



Artie (Behmetuik) Bennett was at the show and found some of his old carvings. We had the opportunity to share his birthday and reminisce about the experience on the Illinois River.



It's great to see youngsters growing up around these decoys.

There is a wide range of items on display at the show as shown here.



Dick Walters with some of those great fish decoys that are on everyone's favorite list.

CARVER CORNER



Callmakers and collectors hold a range of activities during the week including a club auction.



Calls are shown, judged and available for purchase at the show.



Pat Meneely sharing painting techniques in the carver's corner.



The show presents a wonderful opportunity to talk with our carver members.

Marty Hanson at work on his bench during the show.



The carver's exhibit brings a wide range of items from all over the country.



Cameron working on the Brandt that he created during the show.



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



Ron's new book is a big hit at hunting camp. Special member offer at backshelf.iam4pack.com

SPECIAL INTEREST



Tim Eckert and Walt Haubauer worked very hard to create the excellent New York decoy display in 2012. Part of their effort is to share with Mike Cole who will lead the 2013 display focused upon decoys from California. The annual members display has become an important contribution to our organization and the collecting world.

Midwest Decoy Collectors Association

312.337.7957 • 319.364.8556 fax • www.midwestdecoy.org • mdc@midwestdecoy.org

Mark Your Calendar 2013 Show April 26th and 27th