

2015 Plans Set for a Great 50th Annual Show

A Tribute to Many Passionate People

2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the North American Vintage Decoy and Sporting Collectibles Show on April 21-25, sponsored by the Midwest Decoy Collectors Association. It promises to be a truly special event.

It is a tribute to many passionate people that a small gathering of early collectors in 1966 has grown to become the largest event of its kind anywhere, attended by enthusiasts who travel from all over North America.

More than 300 dealers will be on site during the week offering over 30,000 sporting collectible items in their rooms and then in the Pheasant Run Resort Mega Center. And the Guyette & Deeter auction always features some truly special items for sale.

The MDCA is excited about this year's 50th Anniversary show and hopes that current MDCA members and anyone else with a passion for this uniquely American folk art will come to celebrate with us in St. Charles in April.

To learn more about the show or to join the MDCA, visit our brand new website at midwestdecoy.org or call Jeff Seregny at 586-530-6586.

Our 50th show will feature more member displays than ever:

- Vintage Ohio waterfowl decoys along with an educational seminar
- Michigan fish decoys
- Shooting boxes
- Contemporary carver corner with duck and fish carving workshops
- A special contemporary carver exhibit highlighting over three decades of Marty Hanson's decoys and folk art
- The Callmakers and Collectors Association of America (CCAA) with several days of activity including an auction, call competition and a show display



Discover · Preserve ·

MIDWEST DECOY COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

Rick Sandstrom
Jim Wierzba
Bill Dodge
Steve Handevidt

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Claussen Herb Desch Bill Dodge Curt Froyen Alan Haid Steve Handevidt Roger Ludwig Rick Sandstrom Jeff Seregny Joe Tonelli Jim Wierzba

President

Treasurer

Secretary

Vice President

WHO WE ARE

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. The purpose of Midwest Decoy Collectors is to foster the hobby of decoy collecting by attracting new collectors, seeking out and preserving old decoys, gathering data about carvers and their methods, and holding an annual show for decoy collectors and carvers.

OUR HISTORY

The Midwest Decoy Collectors Association (MDCA) was started in 1966 by a small group of dedicated decoy collectors as a gathering in Ottawa, Illinois to reconnect, share stories and trade decoys. Since then, the Club has grown to over 1000 enthusiasts from all walks of life. Our members come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, three Canadian provinces, England, Switzerland, Japan and Mexico. They write books on collecting, manage auction companies, publish magazines, carve world class decoys, calls and collectibles, provide appraisal services, and form a core network of knowledge on sporting collectibles and their history. That humble gathering of collectors in 1966 has grown to become the North American Vintage Decoy and Sporting Collectibles Show - the largest show of its kind. The annual show features room-toroom trading, a tabled show and a major decoy auction in addition to a variety of networking events and educational activities including seminars, displays and carving demonstrations. The show is attended by collectors, antique dealers, carvers, sportsmen, nature enthusiasts and others who come from all over the United States and Canada.

WEBSITE

www.midwestdecoy.org

2015 Greetings – Meet Sophie – 12 weeks old and practicing her camouflage in the prairie grass



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Wow! As we enter our 50th year there are so many things to talk about. I'll just get right to it.

2014 showed good progress. Activity increased last year with more rooms, added tables and new attendees. We are growing again and the energy and collecting opportunities are excellent. It is a great time to be a collector as wonderful items at attractive prices are becoming available weekly. And we have new benefits for our members this year that should make their collecting activities even more fun and successful.

2015 is a major milestone for your association. It is amazing to think that this year will be our 50th annual show. That is truly significant. Renaming our event to be the North American Vintage Decoy and Sporting Collectibles Show has been successful and has helped attract a younger and broader audience. We have introduced unique items to the event to give it even more value. This year's show will feature displays of Ohio waterfowl decoys, Michigan fish decoys, shooting boxes, contemporary carver corner, duck and fish carving workshops and a special exhibit of Marty Hanson's great work. There will be more than 300 dealers on site during the week and the call maker/ collectors will conduct an auction, contest and exhibit. Our free identification and appraisal activity is growing and the silent auction always has some surprise items that walk in the door. The Guyette & Deeter auction company holds an extremely popular pre-view reception and the largest auction event of the year.

New website has been rolled out. We have launched a new website with easier navigation, and tools that allow dues renewal on line and gives you the ability to search for other members and their collecting interest. As a part of our web presence, we've also built a "Members Only" Facebook page where members can share stories, post pictures for ID, and even trade with other members in a secure environment.

Preserve. Our charter as a non-profit is clear and we work hard to create the environment for everyone to increase their knowledge of this wonderful folk art through networking and educational programs. Your organization and our annual show are structured to serve a wide range of interests. We record all the items that are on display and this effort has produced a wonderful set of images that are distributed through our communications and available on our website. In addition, the seminars and workshops allow our members to share their extensive knowledge and passion for this wonderful folk art.

Outreach!!! We have collaborated with a number of sources to develop a targeted database that includes over 5900 active collectors. This newsletter and a show flyer will be sent to this expanded list in an effort to grow our membership and show participation.

Make your 2015 plans now! Renew your membership (it's easier that ever), make your room and table reservations as we already have seen an increase in space requests. Ask a friend to join and attend the show.

Best Wishes for Happy and Successful 2015. Happy Collecting! See you in St. Charles!

Ríck Rick Sandstrom

Midwest Decoy Collectors Association a non-profit organization whose purpose is to collect and preserve the history of the decoy as original American folk art







The Midwest Decoy Collectors Association is the largest organization of its kind and the sponsor, since its beginning in 1966, of the annual North American Vintage Decoy and Sporting Collectibles Show held each year in St. Charles, IL during the last full week in April.

To learn more call the MDCA's president Rick Sandstrom at 319-431-3861. To join now go to midwestdecoy.org, or fill out and send in the membership application form provided below.

the "must attend" event

Each Spring collectors travel from all over North America to the largest gathering of decoy and sporting collectibles enthusiasts anywhere to participate in what has become the "must attend" event for anyone with interest in this uniquely American folk art genre. Members enjoy free admission to the show.

the finest collections

Within our members' homes reside the finest collections of decoys and other sporting collectibles known today and they are always willing to share with other members.

and more...

Membership also offers the ability to network with and learn from the most experienced and knowledgeable vintage and contemporary decoy collecting community - including top authors, dealers, magazine publishers, restorers, museum curators, and contemporary carvers.

To join now go to midwestdecoy.org, or complete and mail in this application.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name:	
Mailing Address:	
Home Phone:	Business Phone:
Mobile Phone:	Email:
Spouse's Name:	_Collecting Interest(s):

newsletters & directory

Members receive periodic newsletters containing news and advice on a number of topics important to new and seasoned collectors alike (such as decoys as an investment, acceptable restorations, tips for collectors, and more).

Members also receive a directory

that includes member contact information and collecting focus, making it easy to network with collectors with like interests.



Make check payable to: Midwest Decoy Mail check to: Curt Froyen 1957 120th Avenue Knoxville, IA 50138 \$25 Membership Fee (1 year) \$70 Membership Fee (3 years)

\$500 Membership Fee (Lifetime)





Photos from the 2014 Show





















All New MDCA Website Goes "Live!"

In the last MDCA newsletter we announced that a new website was being developed to provide a number of tools to improve your membership experience, attract younger members, and allow the club to operate more efficiently. On December 1, 2014 the site went "live." The new site features:

- A more graphic, visually appealing look with more frequent updates to keep users engaged and coming back over and over again
- Better navigation making it easier for users find what they are looking for
- More useful and interesting content to enhance the user's collecting experience
- An easier and faster process for collectors to join the Club, particularly important for younger prospects who prefer interacting in an online environment
- A Members Only area that will include:
 - A tool that lets members pay dues online. No more printing out forms and mailing checks.
 - A password protected online Member Directory that allows members to search for other members by Last Name, City, State and/or Collecting Interest. Imagine being able to locate another collector from anywhere and dialing him/her up right from your smartphone.
 - Access to a new Members Only Facebook page where members can share stories, post pictures for ID, and even trade with other members
 - More frequent and timely communications to members for whom we have a current email address
 - Email distribution of the Club newsletters, saving the Club money on printing costs



Rest assured, for those few members who don't have access to the Internet, we'll continue to offer mail payment, and printed newsletters and directories.

Members Need To Register Now

In order to take full advantage of all that the new site has to offer, members will need to set up a Member Account. The process is simple and will allow members to update their personal profile information any time they want to keep it current – from contact information to collecting interest.



To set up your Member Account, just follow these simple steps:

Go to the midwestdecoy.org

Click on the Members Only Login button on the upper right hand side of the Home page. This will take you to the "Member Login" page.

- Click on "Click Here" in the first line that reads, "If you have not already setup an online account "click here" to register."
- 4 Follow the simple prompts and instructions from there to completion.

Note that annual membership dues are payable January 1 of each year. If you are not paid up through 2015, before gaining access you will be asked to pay your dues for this year (or beyond if you choose the more cost effective 3-year option) using the new online payment tool. You can use a credit or debit card, or even PayPal.

Once you've done this you'll be able to use all of these new tools that will make it easier for you to enjoy all of the benefits that membership in the MDCA offers. **So, don't delay. Register online today!**

If you have any questions regarding registration or online dues payment, contact Jeff Seregny at jseregny@gmail.com or at 586-530-6586.

Post-Show Member Satisfaction Survey Report

To ensure that the MDCA is meeting the needs of its members, a member survey was fielded shortly after last year's Show in St. Charles. The survey was designed to measure overall levels of satisfaction with the Show and its various elements, in addition to getting input for future shows. We received 160 responses.

Overall Satisfaction With the Show is High

A sizeable majority (77%) of members attending the Show said they were "very" or "somewhat" satisfied with the event.



"Big Three" Events Remain Very Important

Room-to-Room Trading, G&D Auction, Mega Center Table Event are all very popular, with at least 65% of respondents saying that they attended/participated in one or more of these events. Room-to-Room Trading remains the week's most popular element. Likewise, satisfaction levels with each of the "Big Three" components are very high, with the G&D Auction topping the list with an 80% satisfaction level.



Other Show Elements Are Very Popular

Most of the week's other activities also have high levels of participation and satisfaction. In particular, the G&D Auction Preview is the most popular function during the week with 8 in 10 respondents saying they attended. Various displays and exhibits – New Jersey Decoy Display, Fish Decoy Display and the Cameron McIntyre Exhibit were also well attended.

"Dealers" and "Non-Dealers" Attitudes Differ

The survey design allowed us to look at differences between those who say they are "dealers" vs. those who say they are not. Overall, half of the attendees said that they considered themselves to be dealers. Among other things, looking at the data this way helps us understand the key drivers of satisfaction for each group.

- Overall, satisfaction among dealers is high, but significantly lower than non-dealers with nearly 7 out of 10 dealers saying they are "very" or "somewhat" satisfied with the Show. However, almost 9 out of 10 non-dealers report being satisfied. Likewise, 20% of dealers report some level of dissatisfaction while only 9% of non-dealers report being dissatisfied.
- Relative to the "Big Three" Show components, dealer participation in Room-to-Room Trading is very high at 93%, while non-dealers only participated at a 76% rate, indicating that they seem to be somewhat less comfortable in this environment relative to the Mega Center Table Event in which 81% of non-dealers report participating. Likewise, dealers say they are most satisfied with Room-to-Room Trading while non-dealers are least satisfied with this component.
- Not surprising then that 92% of dealers report that they did most of their buying in the rooms while only 77% of non-dealer say they bought in the rooms.

Respondent Comments Provide Direction for the Future

The survey solicited open-ended comments from those attendees who reported being dissatisfied with any part of the Show experience. We received comments from a broad spectrum of respondents, most of whom were self-identified as dealers.

Over 50% of these comments concerned low traffic and disappointing sales. The next most frequent area of concern (less than 10% of all comments) was the overall length of week.

Conclusions/Summary

While satisfaction with the Show and its various components is high, among the minority who report any level of dissatisfaction, the key concern is the lack of traffic and sales. This suggests that we should prioritize and focus our limited resources on driving qualified traffic to the show in the future.

Since dealers seem to favor Room-to-Room trading and nondealers seem to be less favorable toward this environment, we should consider exploring ways to make the room experience more inviting in order to attract a broader range of Show attendees to this important Show element.

If you are interested in seeing the complete survey report you will find it in the Members Only section of the new MDCA website (midwestdecoy.org). Simply click on the Members Only login button on the home page and log in using your username and password. If you have any questions, please contact Director Jeff Seregny at 586-530-6586 or at jseregny@gmail.com.

Preview of 2015 Member Decoy Display — Decoys from the Buckeye State Jeff & Joyce Hay

In the tradition of *Discover, Preserve and Celebrate*, this year's Member Decoy Display will feature Ohio decoys. Their history will be the subject of the annual decoy seminar during the week. Building upon the solid foundation of research and documentation that has preceded us, it is our goal to highlight Ohio's best decoys and develop greater understanding and interest across the collecting community in these Buckeye state birds.



Decoys from the state of Ohio can often be difficult to discuss with collectors from other areas of the country. Many of the most famous decoys are very old, dating to before the Civil War. Many are made by unknown carvers and very few examples of each have survived.

Ohio citizens and companies made significant contributions to the hunting traditions we enjoy today. The display and seminar will focus primarily on the decoys, carvers and clubs of Lake Erie's southern shore; the Sandusky and Maumee Bays, Central and southern parts of the state, including the Ohio River. We will also spend time discussing Ohio artists like E. Osthaus and H. Machen who are highly prized by collectors today. And think of the significance the Ohio-based Miami, King, Peters, Chamberlin and Austin Powder Companies had on all types of hunting in the early years.

A common frustration with Ohio decoys is the large number of "Unknown" carvers. In fact, as we look across our own collection, we realize that almost all of them are from unknown carvers. However, they do have strong common traits that bind them to Ohio. In the seminar we will identify common traits, possible influences and known brands. On the more definitive side, the best examples of early known Ohio carvers will be displayed. Decoys from the likes of Ned Hauser (Ohio's earliest documented carver, 1850's), Adam Hartung (Sandusky Fire Captain, 1894) and Jack Rider (maker of working decoys, miniature decoratives and one of the most outstanding owls ever carved.) Others include Charles Klopping, Fred Harris, Frank Noe and the younger cork birds from Maumee Bay carvers like Bill Enright and John Sharon. The display will include a pair of mallards that Sharon made which were hunted over by President Eisenhower in 1954.

Because of their collectability and historical importance, decoys from the hunting clubs of Lake Erie's southern shore will be prominent. Decoys from the from Winous Point Shooting Club, est. 1856; Ottawa Shooting Club, est. 1871; DeMars Hunting & Fishing Club, est. 1883 and the Toussaint Shooting Club, est. 1885 will be featured in the exhibit and presentation. While there are virtually no documented carvers from these clubs, members took great pride in their rigs, consistently branding them to make sure they found their way home after the hunt. Today, these brands are the reason why so many decoys circulating in the collecting world can be traced back to Ohio.

There is no doubt members had the wealth to buy or bring decoys from these areas to the club where punters likely copied or developed their own styles with these influences. The birds we will display show the wonderfully detailed paint patterns; vermiculation and the calligraphic lines indicative of the fine Spencerian penmanship of the era. They also have a consistent form, deeply carved ice or shoulder groove, tack or glass bead eyes many times with a yellow ring painted around them. Almost all have brands and a few have carved groove lines under the tails.

We are honored to bring this group of decoys, from multiple collections across the United States, and present this information to the members of the Midwest Decoys Collectors Association at the North American show in St. Charles IL in April. We look forward to seeing everyone at the show and expanding our knowledge with conversations around these great artifacts and their history.

> SEMINAR 9:00 am, Thursday, April 23 Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL

New Jersey Decoy Member Display

Charles H. Huff Drake Merganser



John Dorsett Drake Broadbill



Ezra B. Hankins Drake Broadbill



G. E. Wallace Yellowlegs and Dowitcher



Henry Grant Canada Goose



Lewis Barkalow Sanderling



Henry Kilpatrick Hen Green Wing Teal



Capt. Jesse Birdsall Black Duck





Nathan Rowley Horner Merganser





Nathan Rowley Horner Brant





Last year John Clayton brought the Jersey Shore west with a wonderful display and presentation.





H. V. Shourds swimming Canada Goose second of only two known



H. V. Shourds Group



Mark English Oldsquaw pair





Harry Mitchell Shrouds Black Duck



Dan Lake Leeds Black Belly Plover



H. V. Shourds swimming Black Duck



H. V. Shourds Drake Redhead



Rhodes Truex raised wing Black Duck



Ephraim Hildreth Curlew pair





















Contemporary Corner Showcases

2014 featured a remarkable display of Cameron McIntyre's carvings and paintings that showed how his work has evolved over time.

Our Member Carver Talent

2015 will feature a focused display of duck decoys, fish carvings and duck calls from Marty Hanson.



Photo courtesy of Kjos Outdoors

Martin Hanson grew up in Prior Lake, Minnesota. As a child, he used to visit his grandfather's cabin in Hayward, WI where he developed a love for duck hunting. He first developed his decoy carving skills when he was commissioned as a young boy to carve an entire rig of decoys for a friend's hunting club. By the late 1980's, at an early age, Hanson was an accomplished decoy carver. Now, 32 years later, Martin is considered one of the top contemporary carvers in the business.





Hanson has carved literally thousands of fine gunning decoys, all hollowcarved white cedar and painted in oil paint. Aside from a thriving decoy carving business, Hanson was also selected for his decoys to be the pattern for the commercially made *Final Approach Brand* decoys to be sold commercially in sporting goods stores and catalogs across the country.

At this year's North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show, Hanson, a long time MDCA member, will assemble a focused display of his duck decoys, fish carvings and duck calls. The exhibit will include following...

- Gunning decoys from Martin's personal hunting rig
- Decoys from the hunting rigs of top decoy collectors
- Special dead mount wall hangings
- Martin's signature standing decoys
- A selection of Hanson duck calls
- Several of his fine fish decoys
- Over a dozen of the actual Final Approach prototype decoys originally used to mold the FA Brand Decoys

Over 50 decoys will make up this exceptional exhibit. Don't miss this incredible display of Martin Hanson decoys. The display will be available at the Mega Center Exhibit Hall on Friday, April 24th and Saturday, April 25th. Be sure to stop by to talk with Martin and see this fantastic display.



In addition to our special display there are exhibits by more than two dozen member carvers in the contemporary carver's corner – including carving/painting demonstrations.











Fish Decoy Member Display



2016 MINNESOTA





Callmakers and Collectors Association of America



Dedicated to promoting interest in and knowledge of the history of callmaking in America and to create a fellowship between all those who are involved in making and/or collecting game calls.

Fancy Call Competition & Show Working Call Competition & Show Quarterly Newsletter www.CCAAcalls.org

We offer a complimentary call valuation and identification service through our website under the "Contact Us" button.

CCAA Annual Call Auction April, 23-24, 2015 St. Charles, IL

Schedule of events:

Thursday evening (6:00pm)

Pizza Party and Call Auction. Come and bid on some of the finest contemporary and vintage calls you'll find. Where: New Orleans Ballroom

Friday morning (9:00am) CCAA Annual Business Meeting Where: New Orleans Ballroom

Friday afternoon/Saturday morning:

Display of the fancy calls and awards at the collectables show in the MegaCenter arena.

Application for Membership

□New Member	□Renewal	Date:	
Name			
Address	City/State/Zip		
Phone	Wife's ı	name	
E-mail			

Are you a Callmaker? 🛛 Yes 🔍 No

I collect: Duck/Goose All Game Calls

I Year Membership Dues (U.S.): \$30.00 Outside U.S. (in U.S. dollars): \$33.00

Mail application and dues in U.S. dollars to: Mike Pahl 12764 Ardine Court Pickerington, OH 43147

Make checks payable to: Callmakers & Collectors Association

Don't miss the largest gathering of Sporting Collectibles enthusiasts in North America.

The **must attend** show for anyone interested in America's hunting and fishing past and the great folk art that grew from it. *Free Appraisals. Collector Seminars and Displays. Special 50th Anniversary Events.*



Vintage Decoy Displays

April 21 - 25, 2015

Pheasant Run Resort St. Charles, IL

Open to the public



Our

Over 30,000 Items for Sale

Tuesday, April 21 Room-to-room trading – All Day

Wednesday, April 22 Room-to-room trading – All Day Auction Preview Reception – 6pm

Thursday, April 23

Room-to-room trading – All Day Ohio Decoy Seminar – 9am Show Registration in Library – 9:30am to 1pm Guyette & Deeter Auction Day 1 – 11am Evans Collectors Meeting – 4pm Call Makers Auction and Party – 6pm

Friday, April 24

Call Makers Meeting and Contest Judging – 9am Member "Town Hall" Meeting – 8:30am **Guyette & Deeter Auction** Day 2 – 10am **Table Event in Mega Center** – 2pm to 7pm *Vintage Ohio Decoy Display Shooting Box Display Vintage Fish Decoy Display Marty Hanson Decoy/Folk Art Exhibit Contemporary Carver Demonstrations and Display Free Identification and Appraisals*

Saturday, April 25

Table Event in Mega Center – 9am to 2pmDisplays/ExhibitsContemporary Carver Demonstrations and DisplayFree Identification and Appraisals

Sponsored by the Midwest Decoy Collectors Association. For information on daily events, booking rooms, and reserving selling tables go to **midwestdecoy.org** or call **586-530-6586**

PRESERVING THIS ORIGINAL AMERICAN FOLK ART HISTORY SINCE 1966

MIDWEST

Decoy Collectors



National Decoy Auction

Carving Demonstrations





Past President Herb Desch is shown presenting the commemorative cover of Hunting & Fishing Collectibles magazine to original member and talented artist Lou Schifferl.

Discover · Preserve · Ce

Midwest Decoy Collectors Association www.midwestdecoy.org · mdc@midwestdecoy.org · 312.337.7957 · 319.364.8556 fax

people

NEWEST

lifetime member

KEITH BUCHERT

4,439 TRAVELED FROM BERLIN, GERMANY TO ST. CHARLES

folk art

miles

EACH YEAR BY CONTEMPORARY

Our

50th year! 2015 **MDCA**

AT PHEASANT

OUR MOVE TO

carver Reggie Birch

29,000 AT PHEASANT RUN SINCE our MOVE TO ST. CHARLES