



Our April show will feature miniature decoys from the Midwest like this Standing Merganser by Charles Perdew.

Midwest Decoy Collectors Association NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017



2017 North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show

April 25-29, 2017

The 2017 Show is just around the corner and, for the 32nd year in a row, will be held at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL.

We expect more than 300 dealers on site during the week offering over 30,000 sporting collectible items in their rooms and then in the Resort's Mega Center exhibit hall. In between, Guyette & Deeter will conduct a major auction featuring the Canadian decoy collection of Peter Brown on behalf of Ducks Unlimited of Canada.

The Midwest Decoy Collectors Association Board is excited about this year's show and hopes that current 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 website at midwestdecoy.org or call Jeff Seregny at 586-530-6586.

This year's show will feature many displays and exhibits, as well as some exciting new events:

- Vintage miniature decoys by a variety of Midwest makers
- Vintage fish decoys from the LaCrosse, WI area
- McNair family decoy and folk art exhibit
- Antique fish trap display
- Shotgun shell box display
- Lake Poygan shooting box display
- Contemporary decoy displays and carving workshops
- Members Only "Early Bird" session – Friday Morning
- Continuous Silent Auction – Friday & Saturday

Discover • Preserve • Celebrate

MIDWEST DECOY COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

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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

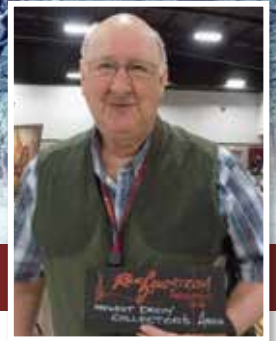
The **Midwest Decoy Collectors Association** was started in 1966 by a small group of dedicated decoy collectors as a gathering in Ottawa, Illinois to reconnect, share stories and trade decoys. Since then, the Club has grown to nearly 800 enthusiasts from all over North America and from all walks of life. They write books on collecting, manage auction companies, publish collector 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-to-room 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.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING is now being accepted in select issues of the MDCA newsletter. Contact Jeff Seregny at jseregny@gmail.com or 586-530-6586 for rates and availability.

www.midwestdecoy.org



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Don't miss St. Charles in 2017. Each year we try to offer more opportunities for attendees to enjoy and learn from. This year is no exception. We're already seeing that we'll have many more folks attending.

2017 event has something for everyone. Our member decoy display will focus on Midwest minis. You will be impressed by this terrific work and we all have a lot to learn. Many of these items have never been on public display. Wisconsin La Crosse area fish decoys have a great folksy appeal and you will enjoy this display.

Family McNair (Mark, Ian and Colin) will be the featured contemporary carver. They will display, carve and take questions to share their collective talent with both carvers and collectors. This is a very special opportunity to meet with this talented family. Our Contemporary Corner grows each year and the demonstrations and new offerings have a growing audience. Their efforts always lead to additional ideas for commissioned work.

Shotgun shell boxes, Lake Poygan shooting boxes and fish traps will all have focused displays.

Our table exhibitors are already signed up from California to New Hampshire, Florida to Washington and all places in between.

Important changes will make the Mega Center event easier for all. We will open for set-up at 8am Friday morning. This will allow everyone to set up and go back and forth with the auction. Breakfast will be available in the exhibit hall on Friday morning to make it easier. Auction progress will be shared on screen in the show room so that all can participate as desired. A continuous silent auction will

be on-going to handle the various items that need support.

Invite a friend. We are talking with many who haven't been to the show for a while and they are looking to reconnect with the hobby. We send our newsletter to a significant list of nearly 6000 collectors and most have decoys but need help to engage. Reach out to them.

Pay dues, reserve tables and rooms now. It takes a huge amount of work to pull off this event. Do your part now to give us the support and information that we need to create a successful event. Renew online or send your dues. Get the enclosed Table Registration Form in right away. Call Pheasant Run right now at (630) 584-6300 and make your reservation. Call your friends to plan your rendezvous either in St. Charles or along the way.

Our members have been very active. Bill Dodge and Jim Goodman have teamed to produce a fascinating exhibit at the Pyramid in Memphis inside Bass Pro Shops. Gene Davis has completed a full color version of the Wisconsin decoy book. Andy & Diane Schoneich have partnered with Terry Smart to produce an Evans Decoy book. Greg Renner, Peter Marsh, Paul Haudrich and others are partnered to create a Jefferson City group to further the knowledge about these decoys.

A final thought. Remember that the serious collectors from across the country are at St. Charles. Bring your best and it will draw lots of interest.

Happy Collecting, see you soon!

Rick
Rick Sandstrom

Big Fun at the 2016 Show



2017 Show Preview

52ND NORTH AMERICAN Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL April 25-29, 2017

As the largest event of its kind anywhere, the annual show is for many their once a year opportunity to rekindle old friendships and maybe even add a decoy, call or some other sporting collectible to their shelves.

On the pages that follow you'll find a preview of the many activities planned for this year's show including Room-to-Room trading; the Tabled Show in the Mega Center exhibit hall; the Guyette and Deeter auction; and a silent auction that will run continuously on both Friday and Saturday. The show is simply a "must attend" gathering for anyone interested in America's hunting and fishing past and the great folk art that grew from it. Check out the day-by-day schedule on the opposite page.

Pheasant Run Resort

Once again, the show will take place at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL. This long-time home of our show

is in the process of renovating the property which will be significant for us. Already completed or in process are:

- Refreshing all of the rooms with new furniture, fixtures and bedding to ensure that our stay is as comfortable as possible.
- Replacing the roof in the "G" wing giving us access to 11 rooms that were out of service for last year's show.
- Bringing back into service both levels of the "B" wing which gives us 20 more rooms. Total room availability for this year's show will be up to 313, which gives us more flexibility in accommodating our members' needs.
- New lighting in the Mega Center making this selling space more inviting and effective.
- Longer term, they plan to install elevators to the second floor of the Golf Wings which means easier access for our members.





New For 2017

- For the first time, the Mega Center will open at 10:00 am on Friday for a Members Only "Early Bird" session prior to public admission at 2:00 pm. The auction will start at 11:00 am giving our members plenty of time to shop the show before the first lot is sold. Set-up will be from 8:00 am -10:00 am.
- This year our silent auction will run continuously for both days in the Mega Center, starting with the 10:00 am opening of the Members Only "Early Bird" session on Friday. This is a great opportunity to reduce your inventory, pick up a few more items or sell some pieces even if you weren't able to reserve a table.

Make your plans now to attend now!

- Call Pheasant Run at 630-584-6300 to make your room reservation.
- Reserve your selling tables for the Mega Center event using the "Table Reservation Form" in the back of this newsletter.

Show Schedule

Tuesday, April 25

All Day – Room-to-room trading

Wednesday, April 26

All Day – Room-to-room trading

6pm – Auction Preview Reception

Thursday, April 27

All Day – Room-to-room trading

9:30am-1pm – Show Registration in Library

11am – Guyette & Deeter Auction
Day 1

4pm – Evans Collectors Meeting

6pm – Call Makers Auction & Party

Friday, April 28

9am – Call Makers Meeting & Contest Judging

10am-2pm – Members Only
Mega Center Early Bird Show

11am – Guyette & Deeter Auction
Day 2

2pm-7pm – Public
Mega Center Sales Event

- Vintage Midwest Miniature Decoy Display
 - Vintage LaCrosse, WI Fish Decoy Display
 - Vintage Fish Trap Display
 - Wisconsin Shooting Box Display
 - Shell Box Display
 - Featured Carver Exhibit – Mark, Ian, Colin McNair
 - Contemporary Carver Demonstrations / Displays
 - Continuous Silent Auctions
 - Free Identification and Appraisals
- 7pm – Member Fish Fry

Saturday, April 29

9am-2pm – Public
Mega Center Sales Event

Displays / Demonstrations /
Appraisals Continue

Member News

Membership Report

The Midwest Decoy Collectors Association continues to be the largest decoy and sporting collectibles community anywhere with nearly 800 active members. The club added 75 first time members in 2016 representing a mix of both novice and experienced collectors with interest in a broad range of sporting collectibles including fish decoys, lures, shotgun shell boxes, etc.

Please welcome new members listed below who have joined since our last newsletter in November.

2017 Dues



We know that many club members often wait to pay their annual dues at the show in April. **Dues are actually due January 1st of each membership year.**

If you have not already done so we urge you to pay your dues for 2017 now. Not only will this make the

registration process at Pheasant Run faster, it will help your club operate more efficiently by providing capital to meet advance show payments and reducing registration staff. In addition, paying your dues now will ensure that you will continue to receive all club communications including newsletters. You can make your payment online (after you create an online account) at midwestdecoy.org or by **sending a check for \$25 (\$70 for three years)** made out to the MDCA to: Matt Bryant, 17114 Erskine Street, Omaha, NE 68116.

New Members (joined since November)

Mike BeBeau

Ashland, WI
Wisconsin, Evans decoys

Bob Carey

Carver, MA
*Mergansers:
New to collecting*

Ian McNair

Charlottesville, VA
East Coast primarily

Charles Maledon

Shelby Township, MI
*Decoys of the St. Clair Flats,
Michigan, Ontario*

John W. McDonald, Jr.

Greenwood, LA
*Shorebirds: J.C. Higgins
Decoys; Shotgun Shell Boxes*

Rick McFarlane

Harrow, ON
Ontario, Quebec Decoys

National Fish Decoy Assn.

Perham, MN
*Fish, duck decoys: contests
and shows to promote.*

Gerald Roy

Hessmer, LA
Louisiana Duck Decoys

Kenneth Yacavone

Youngstown, OH

Email Communications

As you know, the Fall, 2016 newsletter was sent exclusively via email to our members for the first time. The feedback from those who received it was very positive and saved the club money by eliminating printing and postage costs. Those members for whom we do not have a good email address on file missed out, but do have access to the newsletter in the "Decoy University" area on the club website.

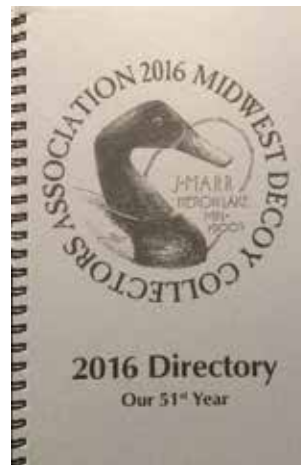
As good stewards of club resources many of the club's communications will continue to be sent by email. Obviously, you won't receive these important communications if we don't have a current email address for you in our database. So, if you don't want to miss any club news in the future, go to your online account or check your directory to ensure that we have a good email address for you. To add or correct your email address, just send a note to jseregny@gmail.com with your information and we'll add it to your file.



Membership Directory

The Membership Directory is one of the most highly valued benefits by members of the MDCA. However, each year the club prints nearly 1000 directories and mails hundreds of the books to members who are not able to attend the show – at a postage cost of nearly \$4 each! The Board is taking a hard look at the directory to see where we can reduce costs

yet still provide the valuable information it delivers. We are exploring different formats (size/shape), content (full issue vs. annual updates), and delivery systems (mail vs. electronic). By show time in April, you'll see the results of this exploration.



MDCA Members Curate New Detroit Factory Decoy Exhibit



Legendary decoys from Detroit's decoy dynasty are the latest addition to Ducks Unlimited's (DU) Waterfowling Heritage Center (WHC) inside Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid in Memphis, Tenn.

This exciting exhibit celebrates Detroit's original "big three" decoy makers – George Petersen, Jasper N. Dodge and William J. Mason. This pioneering trio of early decoy manufacturers produced thousands of working waterfowl decoys from the late 1800s to the mid-1920s.

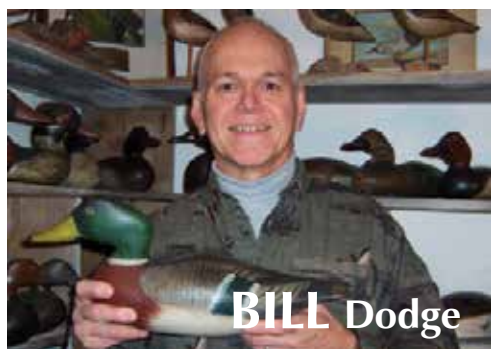


Curated by MDCA members Jim Goodman and Bill Dodge, this display captures the profound impact these three factories not only had on one another, but also on numerous decoy makers throughout North America. The collection marks another chapter in the WHC's efforts to chronicle the remarkable story of American waterfowling.

Goodman's collection of wooden mallard decoys highlights the gradual evolution of Detroit's commercial decoys, from the early backyard models to the later mass-produced Mason's. Goodman began collecting factory-made Detroit decoys more than 30 years ago, and in addition to being a passionate decoy collector, he is a lifetime donor of Ducks Unlimited and an avid duck hunter.

Dodge has been collecting decoys for over 40 years, and is a historian of Dodge Decoys and the author of *Detroit Decoy Dynasty: The Factory Decoys of Petersen, Dodge, and Mason*.

If you find yourself anywhere near Memphis between now and August, don't miss the chance to see this exhibit first hand.



BILL Dodge



JIM Goodman



Member Display Goes Small

MDCA Director Dave Kneebone is gathering a truly unique assembly of folk art for this year's Member Display. This annual show exhibit will feature miniature decoys and carvings by makers from all over the Midwest including Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ohio. These smaller versions of full size working decoys represent an underappreciated genre of folk art that features wonderful detail and creative license beyond what is necessary for their larger brethren to be effective in the field. This display will feature some of the best known makers in the region including Charles Perdew, Ben Schmidt, Charles Walker, John Tax, Tom Schroeder and many more.

These unique pieces will be on display both Friday and Saturday (April 28-29) in the Mega Center exhibit hall. This is sure to be a special treat and wonderful learning experience for all of us.



*Heck Whittington
Pintails, Oglesby, IL*



*Michael Vallero
Mallards, Spring
Valley Ill*



*Skippy Barto
Mallards, Tiskilwa, IL*



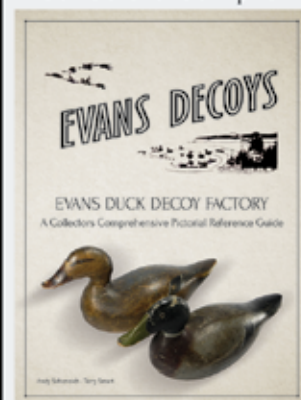
*Ignatius Stachowiak,
Mallard, LaSalle, IL*



*Otto Garren Green Wing
Teal, Canton, IL*

EVANS FACTORY DECOYS

A Collector's Comprehensive Pictorial Reference Guide



NEW RELEASE Ready at the Midwest Decoy Collectors Assn. show. Save Shipping with pick-up at the show! Advance orders will not process until the book is shipped in April. **Order Today!**

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Please find the Evans Decoy Book tab. Print and complete the order form and mail or email (depending on method of payment) to: Andy Schoneich, 9345 West 119th Street, Palos Park, IL 60464

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In conjunction with the Midwest Decoy Collectors Show
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Important pair of pintails by Ivar Fernlund



Pair of display model mallards by Charles Perdue



Part of a good selection of duck calls



Outstanding 1936 model black duck by the Ward Brothers



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Something Fishy's Going On



LaCrosse, (WI) Area Fish Demonstrate **UNIQUE** Qualities

Wisconsin has a rich history of spearing as one of only a handful of states where winter dark house spearing for northern pike is still legal. This year's fish decoy display will feature over 60-70 exemplary examples of fish decoys from the LaCrosse area, what many believe to be the best of Wisconsin makers' output. Fish decoys carved in the area around 1900, are unique and generally small in size, ranging from 2 to 8 inches with an average length of 5 inches. As a group these decoys are scarce because most were made by local carvers who only made a few for their own use. As a result very many of them were by unknown carvers. Director Jim Weirzba is coordinating this display.

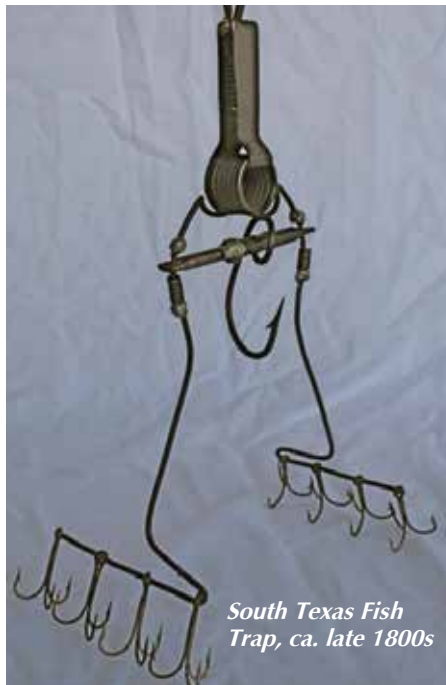
First Ever Fish Trap Display



*Turner & Fletcher Fish
Trap, California, ca. 1895*



*Lake Erie
Claw Trap,
Ohio, ca.
late 1800s*



*South Texas Fish
Trap, ca. late 1800s*

The 2017 show will, for the first time, feature a large display of rarely seen and often misunderstood vintage fish traps from the collection of Bill Blauser, the country's foremost authority on the subject and co-author of the book, "Spring-Loaded Fish Hooks, Traps and Lures." These mechanisms, and the patents behind them, demonstrate their makers' unique creativity and ingenuity that all attendees are sure to find truly remarkable.

Bill will be on hand to explain the ingenious characteristics of these now outlawed devices and how they worked to capture their prey." So stop by the Mega Center on Friday or Saturday to see these terrific examples, and to say, "Hi" to Bill and thank him for sharing this great collection.

Sporting Boxes Back For More

More “Lake Poygan” Shooting Boxes

Once again, MDCA Board Member “Emeritus” Roger Ludwig will bring another group of these unique and multi-purpose tools for attendees to examine and enjoy. These old “gunning” boxes, typically native to Wisconsin, were designed to efficiently carry an array of hunting paraphernalia including shells, gloves, matches, and any other necessary gear. An important component of these unique boxes was a cradle for the hunter’s shotgun, helping to protect it from ending up wet in the bottom of the boat, or worse yet, from falling overboard into the drink! Some of these boxes even had cubbies for thermoses and many were designed to double as seats.

About a dozen wonderful examples from throughout Wisconsin will be on display in the Mega Center both Friday and Saturday (April 28-29) of show week.



Shotgun Shell Boxes Return



In 2016, Shotgun Shell Boxes made their debut at Pheasant Run and were a big hit with all who attended. Thanks to MDCA Member Rudy Ronning, another group of these beautiful boxes will make a return engagement this year. Rudy’s display will feature boxes from a variety of manufacturers as well as different gauges and forms. The display will include 2 and late 1 piece boxes as well as a number of hand-loaded examples. Rudy plans to bring at least one box made by 17 of the 18 makers covered in the “go to” book on the subject, “The Encyclopedia of Shotgun Shell Boxes.” So this promises to be a wonderful opportunity for all to learn a great deal about this fascinating collecting area. Be sure to check it out in the Mega Center on Friday and Saturday.



Contemporary CORNER

McNair Family To Headline at St. Charles



TOP:
Mark McNair Yellowlegs

LEFT:
Colin McNair Penguin

BELOW:
Ian McNair Black Duck



*Ian, Mark, Colin
McNair (L-R)*

We are delighted to announce that the country's preeminent carving family has agreed to display a broad selection of their work for all show attendees to enjoy. While Mark McNair has long been viewed as one of the top contemporary makers in the nation, his two sons, Ian and Colin, have followed closely in their father's footsteps to become highly regarded folk artists in their own right. Show goers will see that they each bring their own individual style to their work. Employing tools and techniques used by the old masters, these men create pieces of wonderful artistic beauty that is sure to please the show crowd. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see the McNair's great body of work on Friday and Saturday in the Mega Center.



More Contemporary Beauty on Display

In addition to our special display there will be exhibits by more than two-dozen member carvers in the Contemporary Carver's Corner – including carving/painting demonstrations where attendees can learn the "tricks of the trade" directly from these contemporary masters.



Extraordinary Firearms Auction

April 11, 12 & 13, 2017 | Fairfield, Maine

Our spectacular Spring auction will include prestigious Private Collections and Estates including The Extraordinary Warren Buxton Estate Collection of Important and Rare Walther Arms; The Fantastic Semi-Auto Pistol Collection of Frank H. Wheaton, III; The Dr. Zack Catterton Collection of Rare Confederate Arms; The Second Session Of The Allen Hallock Schuetzen Rifle Collection; The Doug Buhler Collection of Rare and Spectacular German Imperial Headgear and Pickelhauben; Outstanding Winchesters; Fine Colts including Historic Colt SAA Picked Up By Captain Benteen After the Battle of The Little Bighorn; Fine Sporting Arms; Class-3 and Other Fine Military Arms; Confederate and Civil War and many more items of interest.

View our website for more highlights in the April auction - www.jamesdjulia.com

Some of the finest collectible firearms in the world pass through our hands.
Here is a Sample of Some of the Treasures to be Offered in our April, 2017 Auction:

Spectacular Doug Buhler Collection of Rare German Helmets



Extraordinary and Rare Imperial Pickelhaube incl. Schweres Reg't Officer, Dresden Off. Co. Army, Prinz Heinrich Potsdam 4-Star Gen., Wurtemberg, Gen. for Att., Melda Reiter, Jager Reg't Parade Officer, 1843 Leihusaren Regt.

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St. Charles Auction Preview

Peter Brown Collection to be sold at auction

The annual Guyette & Deeter sale on Thursday and Friday (April 27-28) this year will feature a wide selection of decoys from the collection of Canadian Peter Brown, long considered to have assembled the finest collection of Canadian decoys anywhere. At the age of 75, Brown took the unprecedented step of divesting his decades-long pursuit, donating 1,000 antique duck, geese and shorebird decoys, appraised at \$1.5 million, to Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). In turn, DUC is offering the majority of the collection to the public through this year's auction. DUC will be the beneficiary of all proceeds from the sale. Most of the birds are working decoys carved in the late 1800s and early 1900s, including a pair of Ivar Fernlund pintails appraised at \$260,000.

About this sale, Bruce Malcolm, who helped Brown assemble the collection, said, "This is a very rare opportunity for DU supporters, waterfowlers, folk art collectors and decoy enthusiasts to acquire an



historical, important waterfowl hunting artifact while supporting DUC and its mission."

Be sure to check out the preview at guyetteanddeeter.com to see these and other items in the sale.

Same Location
as Last Year

Come See Us...
Next to the Golf Pro Shop...
(Legends/Jack Nicklaus Room on the Ground Floor)



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Featuring Several Decoy Collections

Call Makers Make Annual Trek to Pheasant Run



Each year, the Callmakers and Collectors Association of America (CCAA) conduct their annual meeting at the North American Vintage Decoy and Sporting Collectibles Show in St. Charles. In addition to conducting club business, there's plenty of fun in store with a club pizza party and auction. Call collectors and makers will be selling out of rooms in the resort's Tower and in the Mega Center on Friday and Saturday. This is a special opportunity for call collectors to add to their shelves. You'll find the schedule for CCAA activities on the agenda in the front of this newsletter.

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**MEMBER
PROFILE:**

Erik Spengler

Wisconsin Collector's Passion Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree



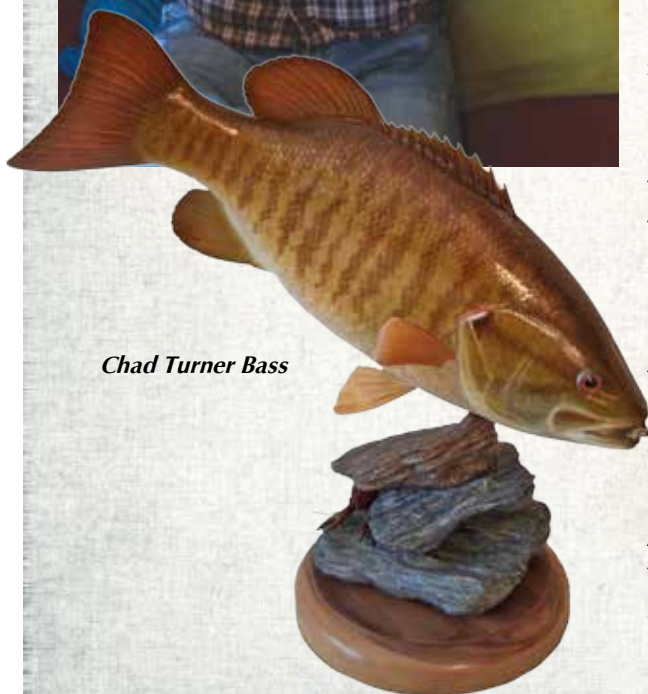
Simply put, collecting is in Erik Spengler's blood. His dad Dave is a charter member of the MDCA and has long been an active collector and Midwest waterfowling historian. Erik's earliest memories of decoy collecting go back to the many Saturday mornings when he would join his dad on visits to the home of early collector Wil Pennington and his wife Dottie. He was able to sneak a peek into Wil's garage to see his decoys, but Erik mainly hung out in the house with Dottie while his dad and Will discussed and traded decoys with one another. These visits laid the foundation for his later collecting.

Starting Early

Erik was only 5 or 6 when he went to his first decoy show, a small event at the Ponderosa Bar in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He remembers that his dad had a table with some decoys on it and the trepidation he felt when dad told him to watch the table while the elder Spengler checked out the offerings from the other dealers." Erik says, "From there on I was hooked." He went on to attend the MDCA's National Show at the Drake Oakbrook several times during these early years since the family lived just a few minutes from there. The Spengler's would move to Madison, Wisconsin in the mid 70's, which would greatly influence Erik's eventual collecting focus.

Touching Decoy History

As a young boy, Erik accompanied his dad on many decoy trips to the Oshkosh area where he met a number of early carvers and collectors further cementing his passion for these old relics. On one trip he met Wisconsin maker Joe Seiger's daughter-in-law Mabel, where his education continued and his fascination with the history of waterfowling in the area grew. On one



Chad Turner Bass



*Burton Dannenberg Bluebills,
Oconomowoc, WI, ca. 1940*



*Mason Slope Breasted
Broadbill, Detroit, MI,
ca. 1895*



*James Walton Bluebills,
Milwaukee, WI, ca. 1940*

of these jaunts he also visited Clifford "Moody" Lind in Fremont, Wisconsin where he watched and learned with great interest.



*Erik visiting with
"Moody" Lind*

The Collecting Bug Takes Flight

This early immersion into collecting really took hold in Erik's college days when he began acquiring fishing tackle with which he felt most comfortable and could more readily afford. He recalls buying Creek Chub sucker that he thought was a pretty good deal. His dad helped him determine that it was, in fact, a rare model and worth much more than what he had paid. The pride Dave showed in his son's good fortune was even more meaningful to Erik than the satisfaction of making a great buy.

Erik's first decoy purchase came a bit later – when he bought a pair of Mason Premier Grade Mallards with about 50% of the paint remaining. Despite their rough condition, he "just liked" them and more significantly, they demonstrated a growing comfort with collecting decoys.

Broad Interests

While Erik says that decoys are his "first love," his collecting interests go well beyond. He pursues just about anything related to hunting and fishing. He insists that this tells the "full story" and best preserves the history of outdoors sports in America. In addition to decoys, his shelves hold knives, creels, rods, lures, shotgun shell boxes, calls and "Lake Poygan" gunning boxes.

Erik appreciates great wildlife related folk art wherever he can find it. Not long ago, an early work associate named Chad Turner emailed him a picture of a wonderful carved bass. When he asked who made the piece, Chad replied that he had made it himself. Erik was so impressed by the quality of the work that he commissioned

Turner to carve one for him. Today he considers it to be a centerpiece of his entire collection. (To learn more about Chad Turner and his work visit chadturner.net.)

War Stories

Erik's fondest memories of collecting generally involve his dad, underscoring the long collecting partnership the two have enjoyed. One of his favorite stories happened a couple a years ago when he got a lead from a lady who had some old decoys from Stoughton, home to a number of great Wisconsin makers. He grabbed Dave and off they went to check them out. Erik's initial excitement waned as he began slogging through a bunch of beat up Masons and unknowns. But at the bottom of the pile was a small box that made the trip worth it – a beautiful pair of Enoch Reindahl



Ferd Homme Cans, Stoughton, WI, ca. 1935



Owen Gromme Bluebills, Fond du Lac, WI, ca. 1930s

*Joe Sieger Can,
Tustin, WI, ca. 1910*



*Gus Moak Bluebill,
Tustin, WI, ca. 1930*



*Dewitt Wakefield
Hen Redhead,
Fremont, WI, ca. 1890s*



Mallards. After closing the deal both he and his dad left thrilled with the day's events.

However, the story wasn't over. About a month later the lady called to say that she had found another sack of old decoys in her attic. Erik rushed back to see if lightning could strike twice. After weeding through a bunch of beat up birds, he finally got to the bottom where he found six more Reindahl's – two pairs of Mallards, a rare high-head Mallard and a Blackduck! After completing the transaction, Erik rushed over to show his dad who, when seeing them, had the biggest smile Erik had ever seen from him. This no doubt took Dave back to the early days when he found his own Reindahl's that he bought directly from Enoch himself. Erik recalls that his dad, beaming with pride, replied, "I guess you really did learn something along the way!"

Another story revolves around another well-known Wisconsin decoy maker, Sylvester "Swede"

Swedesky of Neenah. It seems that Dave was a Swedesky family friend and, after returning from the Navy he asked Swede to make him a duck skiff. When he asked Swede for the price Swede replied "You can't afford it." So he simply gave the skiff to Dave and it now hangs in Erik's garage where he says it will remain forever because of the deep connection to his dad that it represents.

On Wisconsin

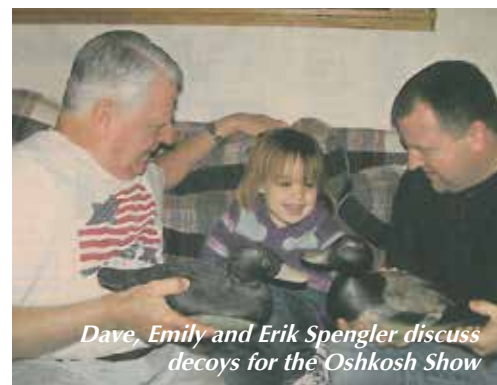
Today, Erik's decoy collection is focused on decoys made by Badger State makers and includes fine examples by the likes of Reindahl, Sieger, Ferd Homme, Gus Moak, and Owen Gromme. He also loves any folksy Wisconsin bluebill that he can find.

Like most of us, Erik finds it difficult to single out any one decoy as his favorite. However, he says that a pair of teal by an unknown Wisconsin maker around Oshkosh is right up there. These folksy, Mason-style birds came to Erik through a

multi-year pursuit involving numerous conversations with the owner trying to pry them loose. After several years, finally got a call telling him that two pair were now available. Erik couldn't get away to pick them up, so he sent his dad to get them with instructions to be sure to select the better of the two pair. Dave responded, "I know how to pick the best damn pair!" Erik still chuckles about this one.

The Legacy Continues

Erik is committed to building a strong collecting community for the future. Along with his wife Sharon, who has always been a big supporter of his passion, he is actively passing on his love for collecting on to his children, Emily, age 11 and 7-year old Jon. They have already attended a few shows with Erik, and Emily was featured in the local newspaper article about decoy collecting and the nearby Oshkosh show along with her dad and grandfather.



*Dave, Emily and Erik Spengler discuss
decoys for the Oshkosh Show*

When he's not running his UPS store in Madison, or on the hunt for that next decoy with Dave, you can reach Erik at luresanddecoys@yahoo.com.

Enoch Reindahl Rig, Stoughton, WI, ca. 1930s





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The table cost remains the same as last year:

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Access to the Mega Center for dealers will provide much more flexibility this year. Set-up time will be on Friday morning from 8am until 10am when the doors will be open for a **members only "early bird" session**, four hours before the public comes in at 2pm. **Only table exhibitors will be allowed in the Mega Center during the set-up hours.**

A name badge will be provided for all exhibitors, available at the Show registration desk beginning on Thursday morning. Please wear this badge in the Mega Center at all times.

Send in Your Table Reservation Form Now!

To reserve your table, please fill out the Table Reservation Form on the next page and send it, along with your check by March 15. If you wish to make a change in your table location or have another request, please indicate this on the form. Your canceled check is your confirmation. You can contact Rick Sandstrom at 319-364-8556 or flyer180@gmail.com if you have questions about your assigned location.



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