

The 2019 show will feature a display of decoys used on the Delta Marsh like this Canvasback by Duncan Ducharme, ca. 1940.



## Midwest Decoy Collectors Association NEWSLETTER Winter 2019



# The 54th North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show is Coming Soon! April 23-27, 2019

The “Granddaddy” of them all is right around the corner and once again will be held at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL.

There will be nearly 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 their largest sale of the year, featuring a broad range of exceptional decoys and other sporting collectibles.

The Midwest Decoy Collectors Association Board is excited about this year’s show and looks forward to hosting current members, and anyone else with a passion for this uniquely American folk art. Come to celebrate with us in St. Charles. You’ll be glad you did.

To learn more about the show or to join the MDCA, visit our website at [midwestdecoy.org](http://midwestdecoy.org) or call Jeff Seregny at 586-530-6586.

Look inside to learn about the displays, exhibits and other events in store at Pheasant Run this year:

- › Vintage Heron Lake and Delta Marsh decoys display
- › Native American fish decoys display
- › Exhibit by contemporary decoy maker Geoff Vine
- › Shotgun shell box display
- › Lake Poygan gunning box display
- › Benz factory decoy display
- › Contemporary decoy displays and carving workshops
- › Annual gathering of the Callmakers & Collectors Association of America
- › Members Only “Early Bird” session on Friday
- › Continuous Silent Auction on Friday & Saturday
- › “My Favorite Decoy” Contest featuring Redheads



*Discover • Preserve • Celebrate*

# MIDWEST DECOY COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

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## WHO WE ARE

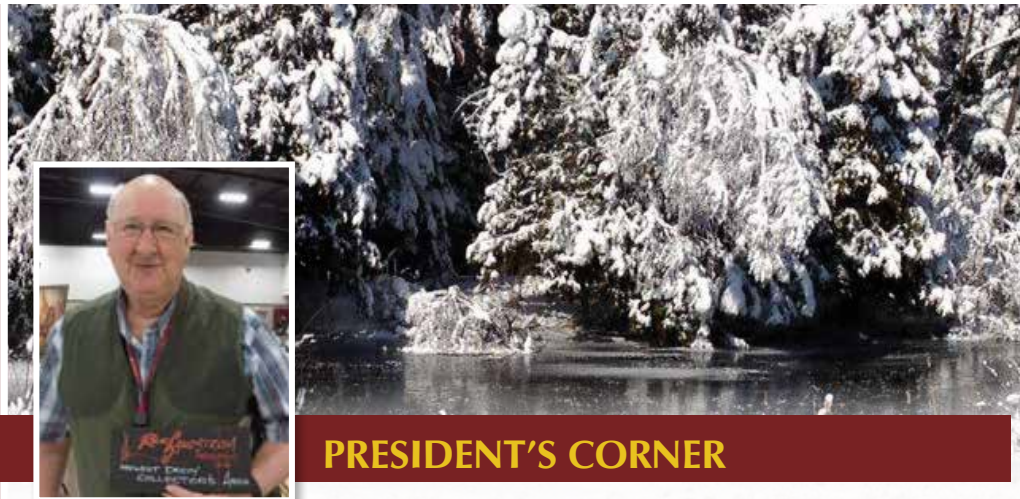
The **Midwest Decoy Collectors Association** is a nonprofit, educational organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois. It invites membership to all persons. The purpose of Midwest Decoy Collectors is to foster the hobby of decoy collecting by attracting new collectors, seeking out 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](mailto:jseregny@gmail.com) or 586-530-6586 for rates and availability.

[www.midwestdecoy.org](http://www.midwestdecoy.org)



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As the New Year unfolds, Liz and I wish all of you a healthy and prosperous 2019. We have a great show planned and we look forward to seeing everyone at Pheasant Run. 2018 was a great year for collecting and we anticipate more of the same this year. Our membership numbers are up year over year, bucking negative trends that many collecting organizations have experienced in the recent past.

**St. Charles remains the "Granddaddy of them all."** Ours continues to be the one show that any serious collector has on his or her "must attend" list for the year. Advance bookings are strong and we are seeing a number of folks returning who have not been able to attend in several years. Consequently, we are expecting to see a variety of items that have not been available for sale in years. This is good news for collectors looking to add to their shelves.

**A focus on celebration and enrichment.** Key to our mission as an organization is to both energize collecting as well to preserve the unique history of decoy making and other sporting collectibles. This year's member decoy display will do both. It will feature Heron Lake and Delta Marsh area decoys and provide insight into the special waterfowling history surrounding this region. An educational seminar, in conjunction with the Delta Waterfowl Foundation, will further our collective knowledge of the history of this rich hunting area.

Our fish decoy display will feature Native American made lures, highlighting their uniquely utilitarian designs. Shotgun shell boxes and Lake Poygan gunning boxes will return with new items on display. There will also be a display of Jefferson City's Benz factory decoys that explores the variety and evolution of this often misunderstood maker's output.

Our featured contemporary carver will be Wisconsin's Geoff Vine, who will exhibit his wonderful decoys and related photography for all to enjoy. Be sure not

to miss the Contemporary Corner where some of today's masters will demonstrate their carving and painting skills.

We introduced a new vintage decoy contest last year featuring Canvasbacks. This year, dealers should bring out their favorite Redhead decoy to display on their table in the Mega Center. Read about some of the procedural changes in the "Show Preview" section of this newsletter.

**Members Only "Early Bird" event returns.** This popular Friday event offers members an opportunity to see items for sale before the public entry. We will again open the exhibit hall for set-up early on Friday morning followed by the members' only "Early Bird" event, which will start a little later this year to allow members to attend the auction as well.

**Make your plans now.** It looks like we will be at capacity this year so be sure to send in the Table Registration Form provided here as soon as possible. Call Pheasant Run now at (630) 584-6300 and make your room reservation.

If you haven't done so yet, pay your dues before the show to help us create a successful event. You can pay online via the website or mail your payment to our Member Chair Matt Bryant.

**A special thanks to our advertisers.** I would remiss if I didn't recognize and thank our newsletter advertisers who make this mailing to so many collectors possible. Our partners include Guyette & Deeter, Copley Fine Art Auctions, The Trumpeter Swan Society, Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine, Decoy Magazine, Russ Goldberger and Alan Haid, Wes Douglass, DecoysForSale and the Great Lakes Decoy Association. Be sure to support these folks at the show and beyond.

Happy Collecting, and we look forward to seeing you in St. Charles!

Happy Collecting!

*Rick*  
Rick Sandstrom





## The Show is Always Big Fun!





# Member News



## Membership Remains Strong and Vital

The number of active members in the Club is up year-over-year signaling an interest in collecting that should be encouraging for all of us. The MDCA continues to be the largest and most geographically diverse hunting and fishing collectibles community with nearly 800 active members from all over North America. Our membership includes novice and veteran collectors with interests in a broad range of categories -- from shell boxes to fishing lures, and decoys to sporting art – and everything in between. *Be sure to check out the story on sporting art collector Lee Schultz in our Member Profile on page 16.*

Our Club is comprised of the most knowledgeable enthusiasts anywhere including collector book authors, professional dealers, restoration craftsmen, contemporary carvers, and collectors willing to share their expertise with new and seasoned collectors alike. All told, membership in the MDCA offers the most extensive networking opportunities for collectors and the ideal environment in which to enjoy this great hobby.

## Members Only Facebook Group Growing Every Day

If you are not among the over 150 members currently participating in the MDCA Facebook collecting group, you are missing out on an opportunity to share your collection, get help with ID and valuation, and even buy/sell/trade with other members in a secure and safe environment. Unlike some other online collector groups, there's the reassurance that you always know with whom you are dealing.

If you want to join the group, just set up your personal account at [midwestdecoy.org](http://midwestdecoy.org) (if you haven't already), and then click on the Facebook logo in the Members Only area. You'll be glad you did.



## Make Sure We Have Your Correct Email Address

Email communications is the fastest and most efficient way to get important Club news to you. This includes two out of three of our information-packed newsletters as well as important show information. If you are not receiving newsletters or other club communications via email, it means that we don't have a good email address for you on file. If your listing in the Member Directory doesn't include a good email address for you, make sure you provide it to us so that you get all of the Club information you need. All you need to do is send your correct email address to Jeff Seregny at [jseregny@gmail.com](mailto:jseregny@gmail.com) and we'll add it to your record in the Club database.



## Online Searchable Member Directory is Fast and Easy



We all know that keeping in touch with other MDCA members is a big part of what makes this hobby so enjoyable, and our online, searchable member directory makes it so easy. It is always up-to-date and allows you to search for other like-minded collectors by last name, city, state and even collecting interest. If you haven't already done so, just set up your online account for instant access to every MDCA member from anywhere you are.

## Share Your Collecting Stories

We all agree that the "thrill of the hunt" for that next decoy to add to our collection is a big part of the enjoyment we get from collecting. The stories behind those exciting finds are often treasures in themselves, and we'd love to be able to share those stories with our members in future issues of the club newsletter. So please send us your best tales from your years of collecting. They can be about the ones you've successfully added or about

the ones that got away. They can be funny or just surprising. Please email your stories along with pictures (if available) to Jeff Seregny at [jseregny@gmail.com](mailto:jseregny@gmail.com), or you can mail them to Jeff at: 6699 Ferry Road, East Jordan, MI 49727.





# Not an MDCA Member?

## JOIN NOW to Enjoy All of the Benefits of Membership

If you like these newsletters you can join the MDCA and receive many more benefits reserved for our members including:

- Having access to the largest decoy and sporting collectibles community in North America
- Our Member Directory in print form as well as an online searchable version
- Full subscription to our three times per year club newsletter including our email only versions
- Free entry to our annual show with seminars, displays, silent auctions, and networking events
- Access to the Members Only Facebook group where you can share decoy stories, get help with ID, and buy, sell and trade with other members in a secure environment
- All this for only \$25 a year (or \$70 for the more efficient three year option)!

**Just complete the application below or go to [midwestdecoy.org](http://midwestdecoy.org) to join.**

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Collecting Interest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Midwest Decoy

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# 2019 Show Preview – Our 54th Year!

As the largest and longest running event of its kind, the 2019 North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show will once again be held at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois starting on Tuesday, April 23 and running through Saturday, April 27. For many this will be their once-a-year opportunity to rekindle old friendships and maybe even add a decoy, call or some other sporting collectible to their collections.

On the following pages you'll find a preview of the many activities planned for this year's show including Room-to-Room trading; the Dealer Show in the Mega Center exhibit hall; and the premier Guyette and Deeter decoy auction. 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 calendar of events on the opposite page.

## Some Key Events to Remember

- The **Members Only "Early Bird"** session in the Mega Center on Friday will open at 12 noon this year, prior to the public admission at 2 p.m. The Guyette & Deeter auction will start at 10 a.m. giving our members plenty of time to attend the sale. Set-up in the exhibit hall will be from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m.
- Our annual **Silent Auction** will run continuously for both days in the Mega Center, starting with the 12 noon opening of the Members Only "Early Bird" session on Friday.



You missed a chance at some pretty special items last year if you didn't participate.

- As usual, **Free Appraisals** are offered in the lobby of the Mega Center on both Friday and Saturday. Think "Antiques Roadshow." It's a great opportunity for folks to learn about and put a value on those items that have been sitting in the attic for far too long. We've seen some very special items over the years.

Same Location  
as Last Year

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**Featuring Several Decoy Collections**





## Contest Redheads are #1 in 2019

Who says, "Blondes have more fun?" This year we invite you to bring out your finest Redhead for all to see as part of this year's "My Favorite Redhead" contest. The "Best of Show" winner will receive a free year's membership in the MDCA, and his/her decoy will be celebrated in the post-show newsletter.



We'll run this contest a little differently this year. We invite you to display your favorite Redhead on your selling table in the Mega Center so that attendees have the opportunity to view the great birds that reside in private collections around the country. You'll need to bring it over to the contest table in the middle of the exhibit hall at some point during the show to register and have its photo taken for later judging by the Board of Directors. More details will be provided prior to the show.



## Show Schedule

### Tuesday, April 23

All Day – Room-to-Room trading

### Wednesday, April 24

All Day – Room-to-Room trading

6pm – Auction Preview Reception

### Thursday, April 25

All Day – Room-to-Room trading

8:30am – Delta Marsh Seminar

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

11am – Guyette & Deeter Auction Day 1

4pm – Evans Collectors Meeting

6pm – Call Makers Auction & Party

### Friday, April 26

9am – Call Makers Meeting  
& Contest Judging

10am – Guyette & Deeter Auction Day 2

12 noon-2pm – Members Only  
"Early Bird" Show (Mega Center)

2pm-7pm – Public Mega Center Sales Event

– Vintage Heron Lake/Delta Marsh Decoy Display

– Vintage Native American Fish Decoy Display

– Lake Poygan Shooting Box Display

– Shell Box Display

– Benz Factory Decoy Display

– Featured Carver Exhibit – Geoff Vine

– Contemporary Waterfowl/  
Fish Carver Demonstrations/Displays

– Continuous Silent Auctions

– Free Identification and Appraisals

7pm – Member Fish Fry

### Saturday, April 27

9am-2pm – Public Mega Center Sales Event

Displays / Demonstrations /  
Appraisals Continue



# Member Display

## History Comes Alive with Heron Lake/ Delta Marsh Display and Seminar

This year's Member Display is a special one. It will feature historically significant pieces that tell the story of the evolution of the traditional Heron Lake decoys to the classic Delta Marsh canvasbacks that Delta Waterfowl founder James Ford Bell brought to the Delta in the 1920s. The display will not only feature an array of decoys made by Joe Marr, and the Ducharme, Ward and Chartrand families, but will also include decoys used on more recent hunts in the region. This will be a special opportunity to learn about the fascinating history of waterfowling in these rich hunting grounds and to view many fine examples of traditional decoy making in the area. Be sure to set aside time to explore this unique display on Friday and Saturday in the Mega Center.



As an important adjunct to this year's Member Display, Pat Gregory, Decoymaker/Historian, and Paul Wait, Editor/Publisher of Delta Waterfowl Magazine will chronicle their recent traditional duck hunts to Delta in 2014 and 2018. These excursions celebrated the heritage of Delta by hunting over historically significant vintage decoys made by Duncan Ducharme, Miles Pirnie and Torry Ward. In this seminar, they will share stories about Delta's much-heralded past, and from their more recent hunts. They will show classic Delta Marsh Canvasbacks as well as some Duncan Ducharme mallards used at York Lodge, the site of the historic hunt by the Duke of Cornwall and York in 1901. The Duke would later become King George V. The seminar will take place on Thursday of show week. Come early to make sure you get a seat for what is sure to be a popular event.



*Paul Wait at York Lodge with Duncan Ducharme Mallard*



*Pat Gregory and Paul Wait on the Delta Marsh*



# GUYETTE & DEETER, INC.

## 2019 SPRING DECOY AUCTION

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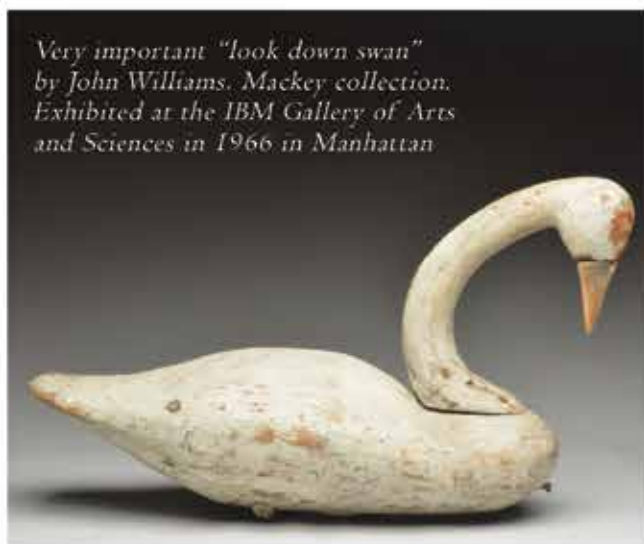
Featuring the final sale of decoys from the  
William J. Mackey, Jr. family holdings

April 25 & 26, 2019 Decoy Auction

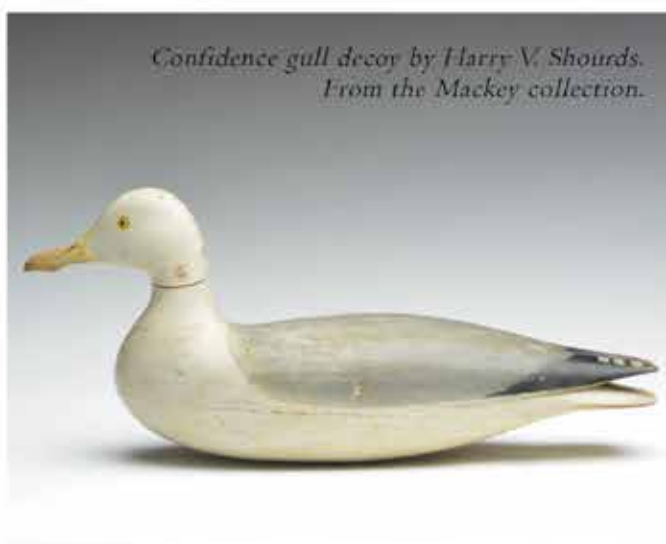
Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Illinois

In conjunction with the North American Vintage Decoy  
and Sporting Collectibles Show

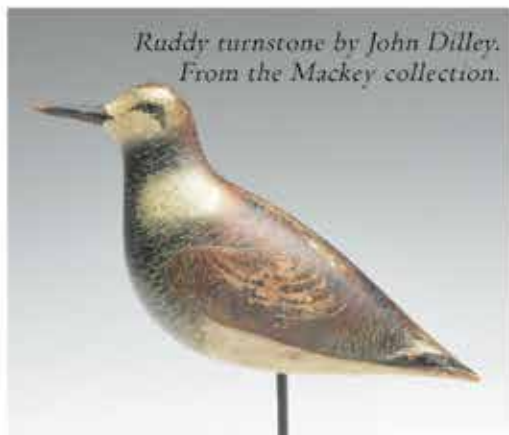
*Very important "look down swan"  
by John Williams. Mackey collection.  
Exhibited at the IBM Gallery of Arts  
and Sciences in 1966 in Manhattan*



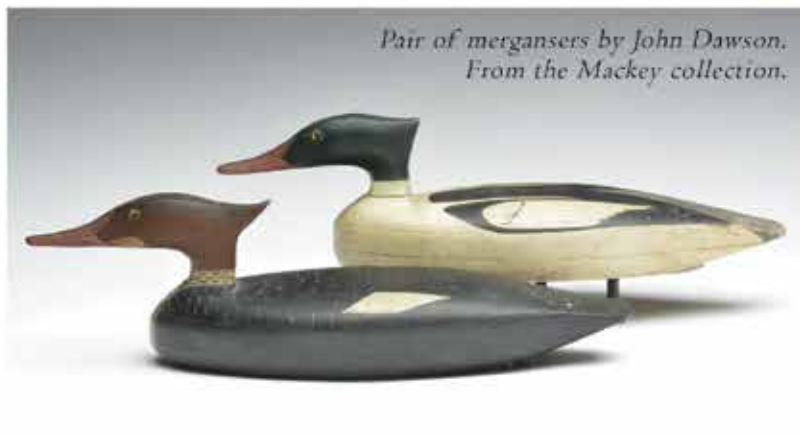
*Confidence gull decoy by Harry V. Shourds.  
From the Mackey collection.*



*Ruddy turnstone by John Dilley.  
From the Mackey collection.*



*Pair of mergansers by John Dawson.  
From the Mackey collection.*



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P.O. Box 1170 | St. Michaels, MD 21663

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Jon Deeter | [jdeeter@guyetteanddeeter.com](mailto:jdeeter@guyetteanddeeter.com) | 440.610.1768





## Native American Fish Decoys Take Center Stage

This first-time display will feature many wonderful examples of what is truly a unique form of American folk art. Attendees will see that these pragmatic native makers generally carved utilitarian, naturalistic forms with equally basic materials including shell, bone and wood. As such, they tended to be minimalist in nature with wooden decoys often being charred in lieu of having painted surfaces. And these decoys most often have only painted eyes or no eyes at all. From a species perspective these decoys tended to skew towards the bait fish eaten by larger fish such as perch, bass, and shad. Given the important historical significance of these carvings, this display will certainly be a “must see” for every attendee.



## Benz Factory Decoys on Display



Member Greg Renner will follow up last year’s fascinating display of Hays factory decoys with a display featuring another Jefferson City maker, Benz Wood Products. His display entitled, **“Variations and Evolution of Benz Decoys”** will explore the different styles of this prolific factory’s output.

In addition, Greg will also bring back together the Jefferson City Decoy Study Group which has been working to further our collective understanding of and ability to accurately identify the decoys made in this Midwest hotbed of decoy making. The group will look to build upon what has been learned about the Jefferson City decoy makers over the past two years. This is an important endeavor in working to understand and preserve the history of this unique American folk art.





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Source: Decoy Magazine

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# Shot Shell Crates and Boxes Show Their Colors



Member Rudy Ronning will once again treat show attendees with a display of some wonderful examples from his personal collection. For the first time he will bring an assortment of wood shell crates, in addition to some beautiful 100 count paper boxes with new primed empty (NPE) shells for hand loading.

It's remarkable that these well-constructed wood crates were primarily made for single use in shipping a case of 500 shotgun shells from the manufacturer to the retailer. Many of the earlier ones had finger jointed corners, and most had beautiful graphics often employing two ink colors in the labelling. Good ones are tough to find since many were burned in the woodstove once they were empty.

The 100 count paper boxes with the colorful scenes on them are often referred to as "Christmas" boxes although no one has ever been able to document that they were specifically designed to boost sales for the holidays.

Be sure to check these boxes out at Rudy's table in the Mega Center on Friday and Saturday.

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See us in **Room 3116** in the Golf Wing at the **Pheasant Run Resort** at the **North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show**

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# Lake Poygan Ingenuity Returns to Pheasant Run

In an encore performance, member and Director Emeritus Roger Ludwig will assemble a group of classic Lake Poygan (WI) gunning boxes. These unique, multi-faceted, wooden “totes” were ingenious tools of the Wisconsin hunting trade that allowed early hunters to more easily transport and organize everything they needed for a successful hunt. These boxes demonstrated the great creativity of their makers, and often included cubbies customized specifically to hold everything from shot gun shells to food for the day. They also usually had a rack on top to cradle the hunter’s shotgun, freeing up his hands and keeping the gun from going overboard in rough water. Don’t miss this display in the Mega Center on Friday and Saturday. Roger will be on hand to show off these unique pieces of folk art and to answer any questions attendees may have.



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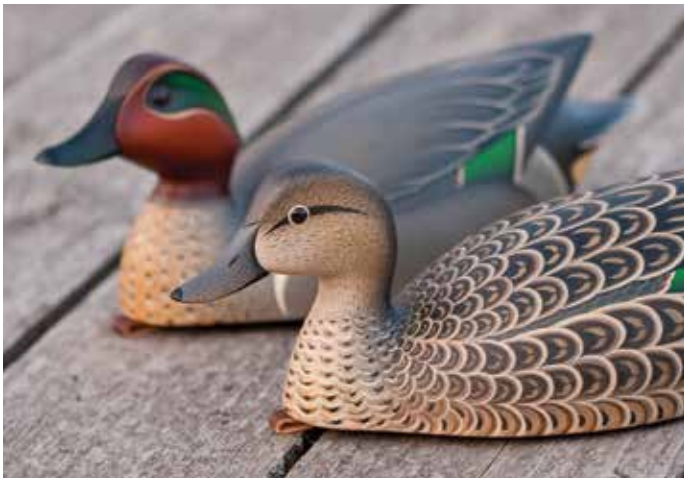
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# Contemporary

## GEOFF VINE: FEATURED CARVER EXHIBIT



## CORNER

Geoff Vine of Waunakee, Wisconsin, has been an active participant in St. Charles for years, demonstrating his prolific decoy making skills to throngs of eager attendees. In 2019, we will celebrate him and his work as our featured contemporary carver.

Since his earliest attempt at decoy making in 1992, Geoff now carves a couple dozen decoys each year. Most are commissioned by collectors, but a handful still make their way into Geoff's personal hunting rig. He says that enjoying a traditional hunting experience that includes his own hand carved decoys is the greatest reward for his long hours in the shop. His decoys are carved from Maine cedar with hand tools, then hollowed and constructed with time-tested methods. His decoys are brush painted with artist oil paint, another facet of the tradition that he's striving to master.

Geoff recognizes that a carver's own unique style can only be developed by spending decades at the carving bench and endless hours behind the paint brush. He knows that there are no shortcuts along this path.

Show attendees will have the unique opportunity to experience the result of Geoff's tireless effort to master his craft first hand in St. Charles. A large collection of his decoys and photography will be on display at the Mega Center on Friday and Saturday. You won't want to miss this special exhibit.



### *Plus...Carving and Painting Demonstrations*

In addition to our featured carver exhibit, more than a dozen other decoy makers will showcase their talents in the Contemporary Carver's Corner in the Mega Center on Friday and Saturday. This will include carving and painting demonstrations where attendees can learn the "tricks of the trade" directly from these contemporary masters. These popular demonstrations represent a great learning opportunity for show attendees.





# GREAT LAKES DECOY ASSOCIATION

## MARCH 14-16, 2019

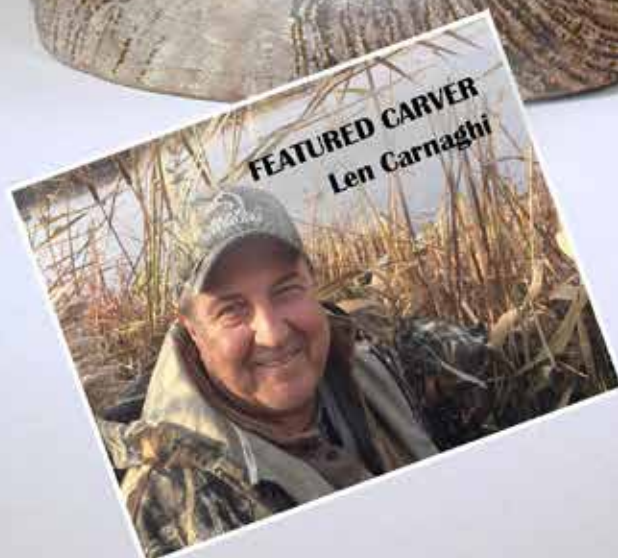
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#### **Vintage/Contemporary Contest & Displays** --2019 CONTEST CATEGORIES--

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New Jersey Black Duck  
Canadian Diver  
Marty Hanson Decoy  
Any West Coast Decoy  
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Illinois River Mallard  
New York State Puddle Duck  
Any Ohio Decoy



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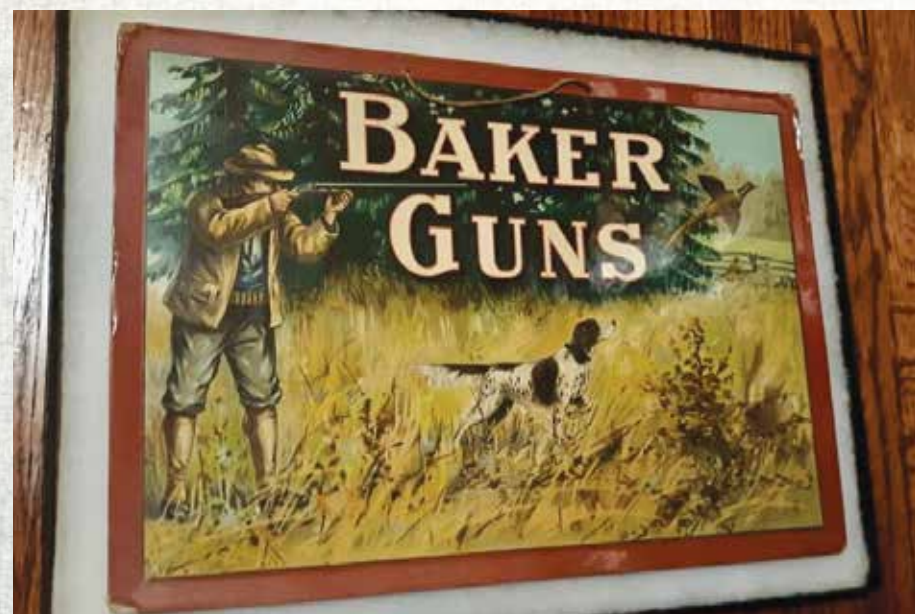


**MEMBER  
PROFILE:**

# Lee Schultz: MINNESOTAN WAS DESTINED TO COLLECT



*Lee holding one of his favorites —  
an 1897 Austin Powder Company calendar*



For as long as he can remember, Lee Schultz was surrounded by antiques in his parents' home in Morris, Minnesota. He also spent his youth in the outdoors with his dad hunting pheasants, ducks and geese near Lake Hattie and Lake Artichoke in west central Minnesota. So, it's no wonder that he found his passion in collecting and eventually dealing in antique sporting collectibles full time.

*Baker Gun and Forging Co. celluloid sign, ca. 1910.*





*"Bristol" Steel Fishing Rods Calendar, 1915. Art by Philip R. Goodwin.*

*Selby Smelting and Lead Co. calendar, 1912. Art by Lynn Bogue Hunt.*

slowly learn values and to be able to discern good from bad.

Fortunately, by the early 1990s a few important books were published that helped him accelerate his learning curve. *American Sporting Advertising*, Vols. I and II by Bob and Beverly Strauss, as well as *Firearms and Tackle Memorabilia* by John Delph were instrumental in allowing him to become more and more confident in his ability to judge quality and determine a fair price.

By the mid-1990s and now in his late 20s, Lee was deeply into collecting and was making important contacts through shows he attended. There were two collectors in particular who mentored him in these early days and helped develop his expertise and the direction of his collection in the future.

First was Gene Konopasek from Fox River Grove, Illinois. He loved sporting art and advertising, but his interests went far beyond, collecting virtually anything with sporting or hunting imagery on it. His home was full of paintings, shot shell boxes, decoys, fishing rods, and a broad selection of other folk art and advertising items depicting birds and game animals.



*DuPont Gun Powder poster, 1911. Art by Hy S. Watson.*



In fact, Lee says that he has always been a collector – having started collecting rocks at the ripe old age of five. This evolved into a penny collection by seven years old, which then turned into nickels, dimes and quarters by the time he was in his teens. After taking some time off from collecting in his late teens and early 20's (sports, girls and college oddly became more important), Lee finally ventured into sporting collectibles around 1988 when he happened on an old wooden ammunition crate in an antique shop in Groton, South Dakota. He just couldn't resist its wonderful surface and was fascinated by the history of this old piece. Despite his limited, post-college budget, he soon began to buy whatever old sporting relics he could afford – including shot shell boxes, sporting advertising and posters.

## Learning the Ropes

In Lee's early days of collecting, there were precious few ways to learn about or even find the items he craved. There weren't any relevant collector books and the internet was still a fledgling commercial enterprise. So, he was essentially self-taught by poking around antique shops, estate sales and going to gun, decoy and advertising shows. With grit and determination, he began to

His other major influencer was Missourian Tom Webster, arguably the period's foremost authority on all things Winchester. Webster shared his near limitless knowledge of the gun and ammunition manufacturers' hardware and sporting goods line as well as Winchester's vast line of advertising items. Lee can only describe Webster's collection as "jaw dropping." Not only were the walls full of incredibly rare Winchester advertising pieces, but every square inch of the house displayed one of Tom's many other collections including cigar boxes, shell boxes, coffee tins, oyster cans, as well as every conceivable type of advertising that depicted a bird, animal or Indian.

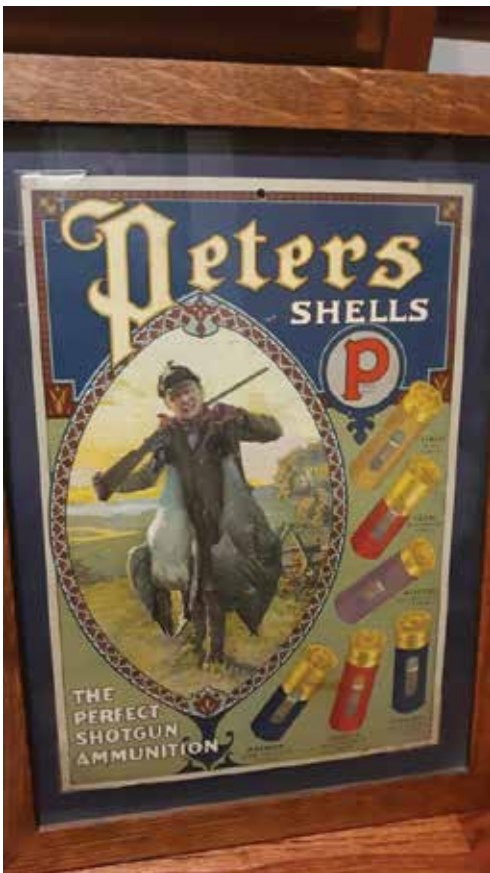
## The Collection

Like most of us, as Lee's knowledge and budgets increased he began to covet pieces that were more rare and exciting. His primary source for finding new items has been the dozen or so shows that he attends each year. These allow him to add significant pieces to his collection but also serve as an outlet for his now full-time business dealing primarily in vintage advertising pieces. These shows include the Indianapolis Advertising Show, the Tulsa Gun Show, the Sioux Falls Cartridge Show, the St.





*Hazard Powder Co. poster, ca. 1890.*



*Peters Cartridge Co. cardboard sign, ca. 1906.*

Louis International Cartridge Show, and multiple decoy shows like the MDCA show in St. Charles.

Today, Lee's collection focuses primarily on very rare sporting advertising, with posters and calendars being of primary interest. He still has a selection of shot shell boxes and also actively pursues cigar boxes, oil cans and smaller paper advertising by all of the gun and ammunition companies.

While selecting a "favorite" is always a tough task for any collector, Lee points to his Hazard Powder Company Lithograph poster as certainly being among his favorites. The main image is a hunting dog with a mallard drake in its mouth, but also includes multiple images which adds to its unique appeal. It is very early (ca. 1890), exceedingly rare and remains in outstanding condition. He particularly appreciates the well-designed layout of the piece in which the type font of the Hazard name is so well integrated into the overall design.

Another piece on his "top six" list is a very rare Austin Powder Company calendar dated 1897. It is the only one known to still exist and depicts a lovely lady in the foreground holding a rooster pheasant in one hand and a shotgun in the other hand, A couple of hunters and their dogs are in the background.

## Lessons Learned

Lee recalls a number of great experiences from collecting which have provided a ton of enjoyment. Some have also taught him valuable lessons for the future. One such experience happened

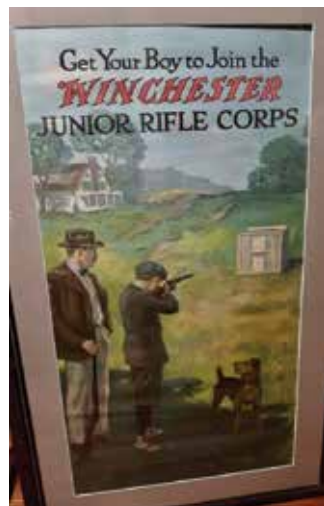


*Winchester die-cut cardboard sign, ca. 1910.*

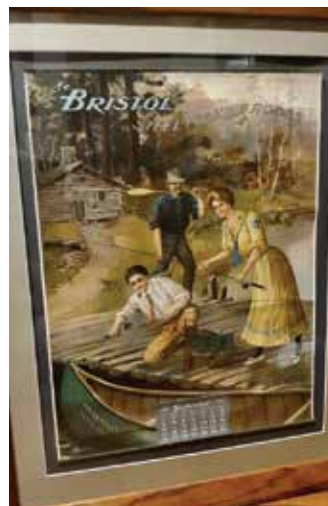
in his early days of collecting. It was at the big Indianapolis Advertising Show, which in the mid-90s was really a mix of several shows over three consecutive days – nirvana for any serious collector of old advertising memorabilia. Lee came ready to buy with a pocketful of money and time to work the shows for all three days.

On the morning of the first day of the event he was waiting in line to get in with hundreds of other anxious collectors. While standing there with friend Rick Simpson, his frequent travel companion, another long time collector friend found him in line and offered Lee a very rare piece that seemed impossible to pass up. It was a Winchester Junior Rifle Corps poster in wonderful condition priced at \$2500, an attractive price for this desirable item but perhaps a little on the steep end for the time.

To say that Lee was conflicted would be a gross understatement. He had been waiting and saving his money for weeks. And now he's been offered a terrific item before the shows even start! He only has \$2600 with him, and buying this poster



*Winchester Junior Rifle Corps Poster, 1919. Art by George Brehm.*



*Horton Manufacturing Co. "Bristol" Steel Fishing Rods Calendar, 1905.*



*Iver Johnson Arms & Cycle Works calendar, 1904. Art by A. Von Reust*



would basically take him out of action for all of the shows...and maybe even not leave him enough money for gas for his long drive home! After a good deal of mental back and forth, he decided to pass on this one and, of course, watched it sell to another collector a short time later.

From this experience, Lee says he learned a valuable lesson. "If a great piece is in front of you, you better buy it, or the next guy will." It was nearly 20 years later that Lee learned yet another important lesson. "What goes around comes around." He was able to buy that very same poster at the estate sale of the man who bought it in Indianapolis many years earlier.

## Preserving the History

While Lee spent much of his career as a quality assurance manager at an office imaging equipment distributor, he now devotes full time to selling antique advertising with a focus on sporting oriented pieces. Lucky for we collectors, he freely shares the knowledge he has accumulated over his many years of collecting. He has contributed to articles and has been featured in several publications about sporting advertising and related items

including The Past Times, Donna Tonelli's Top of the Line Hunting Collectibles, and Hal Bogges's Classic Sporting Collectibles.

## A St. Charles Legend!

We couldn't chronicle the collecting career of Lee Schultz without recognizing his "above and beyond" contribution to the St. Charles show. Along with his close friend Rick Simpson, they generously treat show attendees with food and libations on the patio outside of their room, making the show experience even more enjoyable. What started many years ago with Rick cooking a few hotdogs in a crock pot, has evolved into a full blown daily "tail gate" party with chicken, burgers, and even fresh seafood donated by member Morgan Perrin on the menu. It's a perfect way for attendees to reconnect with old friends while enjoying a selection of adult beverages which always includes Minnesota's own Grain Belt Premium beer!

A special thanks to Lee Schultz for sharing his collection and knowledge, and for manning the grill in St. Charles every year. Both contribute greatly to our collective enjoyment of this great hobby. Lee can be reached at [ljshultz@msn.com](mailto:ljshultz@msn.com).



*Peters Cartridge Co. calendar, 1910.  
Art by Philip R. Goodwin.*



*Elmer Crowell and George Boyd*



*Robert McGaw*



*Harry V. Shourds*



*Carl's & Harvey's*



*Ernie Muehlmann*



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# Callmakers Make Annual Trek to Pheasant Run



The Callmakers and Collectors Association of America will once again hold their annual meeting in St. Charles during our show. On Thursday, the CCAA conducts a Fancy Call Contest followed by a Pizza Party and Custom Call Auction.

On Friday morning they hold their annual Membership and Business Meeting. On Friday afternoon and on Saturday the Fancy Call Contest entries and results are on display in the Mega Center for all to enjoy. This is a great opportunity to see the fine work by these talented craftsmen.



## Member Profile Update: Collectors Never Stop Learning

Our Member Profile of Rick and Paul Wyczalek in last winter's newsletter reported that the maker of Rick and Paul's estate find of 11 Canvasback decoys was Eddie Driscoll of Bayview, Ohio. Further research by the Wyczalek's has since revealed that these decoys were actually made earlier by Driscoll's good friend and hunting partner Lester "Ted" Gensman of Oak Harbor, Ohio. Ted was a mentor to and shared his decoy patterns with young Eddie. The makers' Canvasback bodies look almost identical but closer inspection shows that the "line tie and weighted keel" are quite different. Gensman was primarily known for his stylish Black Ducks carved in the 1940's, but also believed to have made some mallards as well. A rig of his field Geese made of burlap with removable wood heads recently surfaced. Lester "Ted" Gensman was born April 4, 1910 and passed away Dec. 8, 1994. Thanks for the update Rick and Paul and for working to accurately preserve this little bit of waterfowling history.

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~Joseph Hautman

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### **Visit [www.TrumpeterSwanSociety.org](http://www.TrumpeterSwanSociety.org)**

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about trumpeter swans, how to identify a non hunted trumpeter swan from a tundra swan, and where to see trumpeter swans. Learn how they were rescued in the last few decades from their 1930 near "swan song" of just 69 swans in the lower 48 states. Today trumpeter swans "trumpet the cause for wetland conservation."

~Richard W. Perkins, decoy collector  
Board Member, The Trumpeter Swan Society

### **Boomer sees his first trumpeter swans**

"I used to spend some time every fall gazing over bobbing decoys in the rain and the fog.

On an especially foggy day many years ago, my lab, Boomer and I were hunting on a small pond near the lower Columbia River. While Boomer and I were sharing my lunch, we heard what sounded like a warming up middle school band trumpet section coming right up to our blind.

The first things we could see through the fog were these black catcher's mitt-sized feet against the white background. These were being used as speed brakes and then as seaplane floats as about a dozen trumpeter swans planed to a stop some twenty yards in front of our blind.

Boomer was as awestruck as was I. We sat transfixed, watching them perform their post flight rituals of flapping and fluffing and finally paddling into the mist.

This was my first up-close experience with these regal birds and prompted me to join The Trumpeter Swan Society."

~Carey Smith, decoy collector  
President, The Trumpeter Swan Society



# Reserve Your Tables for the April 26-27, 2019 Mega Center Show now using the Table Registration Form on the next page! >>>>

As in the past, priority will be given to returning exhibitors who have held tables in prior years **provided your reservation and payment is received by March 15th.**

**The table cost remains the same as last year:**

- \$75 per table for reservations and payment by March 15, 2019
- \$100 per table for reservation and payment after March 15, 2019

## Early Mega Center Set-Up Time!

Once again this year, set-up time in the Mega Center will be on Friday morning from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. The doors will be open at 12 noon for Members Only "Early Bird" session (**note the new time**), two hours before the public comes in at 2 p.m. 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 tables, please fill out the Table Reservation Form on the next page and return it, along with your check no later than March 15, 2019. 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 Matt Bryant at (785)-201-2923 or [matt.bryant@wilsonco.com](mailto:matt.bryant@wilsonco.com) if you have questions about your assigned location.

"November Moon," 1931



## Frank W. Benson



"Setting Decoys," 1923



"Wide Marshes," 1920

Frank W. Benson (1862-1951) has been called the Dean of the American Sporting Print. By midlife, having won almost every award the art world had to offer, Benson turned his hand to etching. His first exhibition of prints sold out in a week. Thereafter, his etchings and drypoints of wildfowl and the sportsmen who sought them were in constant demand.

Now, one of the largest collections of Benson's prints is being offered for sale. Some are extremely rare. Many were obtained from Benson himself.

To discuss obtaining these prints directly from the collector's estate, please write to:

[FrankWBensonTrust@gmail.com](mailto:FrankWBensonTrust@gmail.com)



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Omaha, NE 68116  
(785) 201-2923  
matt.bryant@wilsonco.com

**Make check payable to:**

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## 2019 MEGA CENTER EVENT EXHIBITOR TABLE REGISTRATION FORM

### Primary table holder:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Dues are paid up through 2019 (Y/N)

### Person sharing table:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Dues are paid up through 2019 (Y/N)

**PLEASE NOTE:** All exhibitors must be MDCA members in good standing. If not already paid for 2019, you can pay your dues online at [midwestdecoy.org](http://midwestdecoy.org) or by including your dues along with your table payment. **If someone is sharing your table**, they must either be a family member, or be a MDCA member in good standing. They can join online at [midwestdecoy.org](http://midwestdecoy.org) or by including their dues payment and member profile information along with this form.

**Checks should be made payable to the MDCA.**

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Table(s) @ \$75 each (\$100 each if after March 15) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues @ \$25 for one year or \$70 for 3 years \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL PAYMENT INCLUDED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Do you want the same table location as last year?\* (Y/N)

Special requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\*We cannot guarantee same table location but will try to accommodate all requests.

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