



NORTH AMERICAN  
**Decoy Collectors**  
ASSOCIATION

**Summer 2021 Newsletter**

# It's Time to Celebrate!



**Join us**  
**September 16-18, 2021**  
**at the Westin Lombard**

After more than a year, and two cancelled North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles shows, we are all more than ready to get back together again to share in our enjoyment of this great collecting hobby. With the effects of the pandemic increasingly moving into our collective rearview mirror, we invite you to attend the "Chicagoland Decoy Show" from Thursday, September 16 through Saturday, September 18 event. This a great opportunity to rekindle relationships and to participate in an active trading environment where there is bound to be something just begging to be added to your shelves. This should more than whet our appetite for the return of the North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show in April, 2022.

There are more details on the September event covered inside this newsletter, as well as other content that we hope you find interesting and informative.

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*Discover • Preserve • Celebrate*

# NORTH AMERICAN DECOY COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

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## WHO WE ARE

The **North American 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 North American 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 **North American 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 NADCA newsletter. Contact Jeff Seregny at [jseregny@gmail.com](mailto:jseregny@gmail.com) or 586-530-6586 for rates and availability.

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



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is time for us to get back together. We had done all the work for two events in 2020 and 2021, but we chose to cancel them because of COVID. However, we moved early with our hotel partner and were able to secure a week for a gathering in September.

The event is planned to allow maximum flexibility for your attendance. You can choose to attend for a few hours or the whole week and we can accommodate the full range of options. Early booking shows an excellent response and it is clear that our membership is ready for an event. You will enjoy our new location as it is a destination business hotel with all the amenities that can easily accommodate individuals, families or groups. The ballroom, which will host our show, is an excellent upgrade for us. The lighting, moveable walls and new carpet will create a better environment for all of us.

We have designed the ballroom space with ample room per person to promote a secure and healthy environment. We know that COVID is not gone and we will make sure that standard protocols are implemented to provide us all with a safer environment. We are mindful that last year the COVID rate increased after the summer and changes were necessary. Our plans will adapt as prudent and we have made provisions for last minute changes without penalty.

I have constructed a room plan that mapped all the rooms/attendees from previous years into the new Westin Lombard location. We want you to be near your friends. It is a complex set of dynamics and we need to understand who is attending in order to create the best fit plan.

There is a call to action for each of you. The number of paid members has

lagged without our annual show and we need you to get your dues current. Look at your individual situation and make plans to attend in September. Talk to your friends and encourage them to find time in their schedules to engage with us. Communicate your intent as soon as possible and get your rooms and tables reserved.

We have had considerable conversation with the Call Makers and Collectors group and they are planning a full event. We are grateful for their engagement and support. You should consider membership with them, too.

Demand is high for good sporting collectibles. There are several reasons. We have more time at home, most have had reduced expenses and there is a resurgence in outdoor activity and appreciation. The charm that comes from these North American folk art creations has gotten better recognition and demand is growing. There is no better time to re-engage. Look at your collections and bring something great to Lombard and it will surely find a grateful new home.

We have lost friends and family members recently. Our association has lost stalwart members Alan Haid, Lou Schifferl and Charlie Moore. Our condolences and prayers go out to their families and friends.

Take care and stay strong. Communicate your thoughts so that we can adapt and strengthen the association. We can do more together than any of us can do by ourselves.

Liz and I thank you for all your support. Enjoy the summer, see you in September!

*Rick*





# The Chicagoland Decoy Show!



**September  
16-18, 2021**

**Westin Chicago Lombard  
70 Yorktown Center  
Lombard, IL 60148**

*Here's the show agenda:*

**Thursday, September 16**

5:30 – 7:00pm: Members-Only  
“Welcome” Reception

**Friday, September 17**

10:00am – 5:00pm:  
Ballroom Tabled Show  
(Dealer set-up 8:00am - 10:00am)

**Saturday, September 18**

9:00am – 2:00pm:  
Ballroom Tabled Show

It's just been far too long since we've all been together. NADCA Board is excited to announce that we've created a new show to allow us all to reconnect and reenergize around this hobby we all so much enjoy. The event promises to be the largest sporting collectibles show of the year as dealers from all over North America set up in the Westin hotel's large, well-lit ballroom offering a broad range of sporting collectibles for sale to members and the public.

There will also be room-to-room trading for several days preceding the show.

We all look forward to finally having the opportunity to experience the Westin Lombard's first-class accommodations. The hotel features two great on-site restaurants, along with a variety of other dining choices in the Yorktown Center premium shopping mall right across the street from the property. Plus a large indoor pool, complete fitness studio, and much more. We encourage you to bring your significant other to enjoy this great property with you.

## **Reserve Your Room and Tables NOW.**

To book a room at the Westin click on this link [Book your group rate for Chicagoland Decoy Show 2021.](#)

You can also call Kenia Izquierdo at (630) 719-8083; or Marriott Reservations at (888) 627-9031. Be sure to mention that you are with the “decoy show.” You'll enjoy a reduced room rate of only \$126/night, and note that room reservations can be cancelled at no charge up to 48 hours prior to your stay.

To reserve tables at \$75 each, contact Matt Bryant at [matthew.bryant@wilsonco.com](mailto:matthew.bryant@wilsonco.com) or (785) 201-2923. If you previously paid for tables for an earlier cancelled show, we will apply those fees to the tables for the September event. Note that due to COVID-related spacing requirements, table availability may be limited. You'll need to be a current member to get a table, so make sure that your dues are up to date.



All COVID-related CDC and State of Illinois protocols will be enforced for the health and safety of attendees and hotel staff.

# Member News

## Welcome New Members!

Below is a list of members who have joined the NADCA since our last newsletter. They come from all over the country — from Washington to Rhode Island and down to Louisiana — with collecting interests that range from sporting art to double barrel shot guns and everything in between. Please welcome them.

**Thomas Croxton**

Hardyville, VA  
*Duck and Goose calls*

**Earl W Duncan**

Stilwell, KS  
*Varied... All forms of early "Folk Art" (Early Eskimo & Native American)*

**Dennis Fisk**

Lake Stevens, WA  
*Mason and Wildfowler Co. ducks; Redheads, Goldeneyes, Pintails, Teal, etc. from other carvers; books and wildlife art*

**Stephen W Goranson**

Hendersonville, NC  
*Fishing, hunting*

**John F Gillespie**

Newport, RI  
*Upper Bay*

**Charles W Guhl**

Des Moines, IA  
*Factory decoys, Illinois River decoys, East Coast decoys*

**Ronald Jacobson**

Marshall, WI  
*Wisconsin decoys*

**Mike Lawson**

Kearney, NE  
*Mason Factory Decoys*

**Brad W Peterson**

Oakdale, MN  
*Carver of decoratives*

**Tom Reiley**

Glastonbury, CT  
*Never met a decoy I didn't like*

**Robbie Smith**

Waxhaw, NC  
*All southern decoys, vintage fly fishing tackle, American double barrel guns*

**Richard L Weber, Sr**

Columbiana, OH  
*Fish decoys, hunting & fishing prints*

**Marc Wiley**

Lafayette, LA  
*Mason, Hays duck decoys*



## Member Directories Delivered

All members who were paid up for 2021 as of June 1 should have received their 2021 Member Directory. The Directory includes current member contact information, collecting interests, as well as other valuable collector information. If you haven't received your copy, please make sure to renew your membership for 2021 either online at [www.nadecoycollectors.org](http://www.nadecoycollectors.org) or by sending a check for \$25 made out to the NADCA to: Matt Bryant at 17114 Erskine St, Omaha, NE 68116. Once payment is received we'll send your Directory out to you right away.

**Errata:** Please note these corrections to the 2021 Member Directory mailed to paid up members in the first quarter:

**Address Corrections:****Lee Schultz**

13715 Schuelke Beach Rd NW  
Miltona, MN 56354-4502

**Al Schultz**

79 Fox Circle DR, Apt. 14  
Moriches, NY 11955-1222

**Email Correction:****Pierre-Daniel Menard**

menard.pp@gmail.com

## Sport a New NADCA Hat at the September Show!

The Chicagoland Decoy Show is a perfect time to celebrate your NADCA membership. We are offering our new North American Decoy Collectors Association hats by mail to our members for only \$20 through August. And shipping is free! Just send a check for \$20 made out to the "NADCA" to Jeff Seregny at P.O. Box 100, Boyne City, MI 49712 and we'll send your new hat off to you in time for the show. We hope to see you wearing your new hat in September.



### LOOKING TO BUY HIGH QUALITY EXAMPLES OF LAWRENCE IRVINE FISH PLAQUES



CALL MATT @ 630-212-0059



# Member News

## NADCA Board News



We are happy to announce that member **Steve Johnston** of St. Joseph, Missouri has joined the NADCA Board of Directors. Steve brings a broad range of financial management skills to the Board and will join with Bill Dodge to ensure that the club remains on a strong financial footing. Steve's collecting interests include Mason decoys, hunting & fishing memorabilia, Adirondack collectibles, canoe paddles and canoe salesman samples.

**Larry Osentoski** has decided to leave the Board and we want to extend our thanks to him for his years of service to the Association. He was instrumental in bringing the club into the digital age, allowing us to more easily manage our important member database and communicate more efficiently and quickly with our membership.

## In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report to the passing of three long-time NADCA members.



### Alan Haid

May 6, 2021-- A former Club Director, Alan has long been recognized as one of our hobby's most knowledgeable and respected members, and was always willing to freely share his expertise. He authored "Decoys of the Mississippi Flyway," one of the earliest collector reference books, and was co-author of "Mason Decoys" along with member Russ Goldberger. Alan was the originator of the "Member Display" at our annual show, which has become a hugely popular staple at the event.



### Charlie Moore

May 10, 2021 – Charlie was an avid sportsman, naturalist, teacher, mentor and noted decoy carver and painter. It is impossible to estimate just how many decoys painted by Charlie have passed through collectors hands over the past 40 years. His classic "Perdew style" decoys are prized by decoy enthusiasts all over the country.



### Lou Schifferl

August 1, 2020 -- Lou was a highly regarded artist for his oils and watercolors, while at the same time being widely known for his wildfowl carvings. Lou was generous with his time and talent throughout his career and did a great deal to increase interest in old decoys and related items. He graciously donated his special talent to the NADCA by creating artwork for our show pins and directories since 1976.

The Board thanks these three special men for their contributions to our hobby and sends our thoughts and prayers to their families. They will be missed.



# The 2022 North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show

Your Board is now “full speed ahead” in our planning for the 2022 Show to be held in Chicago, April 26-30, 2022, and we continue to be really excited about our new venue at the Westin Lombard hotel. Our current plan is to execute the same event that we’ve had scheduled for the past two years:

- Displays including wildfowl and bird carvings by Elmer Crowell, fish decoys by Oscar Peterson, Lake Poygan Shooting Boxes, Shot Shell Boxes, and a special President’s Display
- Seminars covering the lives and work of both Elmer Crowell and Oscar Peterson
- Member Vintage and Contemporary decoy contest featuring Blue-Winged Teal
- Contemporary Carver display
- Guyette & Deeter auction
- Carving demonstrations
- Silent auctions and much more.

Please note that if you had previously reserved tables for the cancelled show, and do not plan to sell at the September event, we will apply your payment to your tables for 2022. Contact Matt Bryant at [matthew.bryant@wilsonco.com](mailto:matthew.bryant@wilsonco.com) or at (785) 201-2923 if you have any questions about table registration.





# MEMBER PROFILE: Keith Buchert

FOR FORMER RESTAURANTEUR  
"VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE"



NORTH AMERICAN  
**Decoy Collectors**  
ASSOCIATION



NADCA Life Member Keith Buchert's passion for sporting collectibles knows no bounds as his shelves and walls reflect a life-long pursuit of outdoors related relics from days gone by. Originally from Minnesota, Wisconsinite Buchert says, "I think I got the collecting gene from my father. He came through the Great Depression and hardly ever discarded anything of value." Keith's father also heavily influenced his interest in hunting and fishing as he fondly recalls being only about 5 or 6 years old when he first went out chasing pheasant and waterfowl with his dad. These early experiences clearly had a huge impact on Keith and his interest in collecting for the rest of his life.

To tell the story of Keith's collecting one has to cover a lot of ground. His broad range of interests includes decoys, ammunition company advertising, as well as a variety of other hunting and fishing related objects.

Keith with one of his "favorites," a sculptural Ontario Black Duck



## Waterfowl Decoys

Keith's interest in decoys began somewhat by chance. When he was still living in Minnesota almost 50 years ago, a friend brought over an old Herter's Redhead that had drifted ashore on a nearby lake. Keith was really intrigued, however the demands of the restaurant business didn't allow him to pursue this interest in a meaningful way. He was able to collect a few pieces here and there, mostly by word-of-mouth. He recalls that this included a small group of Mason standard grade models that a friend found for him.

Eventually, the decoy bug was put into overdrive during the mid-1970s, when Keith was introduced to Don Buchanan, Dean of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation at Mankato State University, and one of the founders of the Minnesota Decoy Collectors Association.



*Arthur Wilkinson Redhead, Brockville, Ont., ca. early 1900s*



*Bob Burke Can, Wolfe Island, Ont., ca. 1930s*



*John Zachmann Can, Detroit, MI, ca. 1960s*



*Capt. John Schweikart Can, Strawberry Island, MI, ca. early 1900s*



*Bud Tully Black Duck, Peterborough, Ont., ca. 1940s*

When Keith was invited to Don's house to see his collection he was met with shelf after shelf of Mason factory decoys, 80% of which were Premier Grade Canvasbacks. This visit became the catalyst that really ignited his passion, in particular for Canvasback decoys.

From there Keith was all in. He bought every collecting book he could get his hands on, subscribed to Decoy Magazine, and then began going to decoy shows in the Midwest. He wisely used these experiences to connect with knowledgeable collectors including Marty



*Tom Schroeder standing Sandhill Crane, Detroit, MI, ca. 1940s*

Hanson and Tom O'Key who were more than willing to provide their advice and counsel. This early education would prove to be invaluable.

Like so many beginning collectors, Keith's early collecting years were characterized by little focus, buying whatever appealed to him. He had assembled a collection that included decoys from all over the country. However, by the 1990's Keith began concentrating on Michigan and Canadian decoys. He was drawn to their workmanship, head forms and frequent hollow construction.





*Schroeder Redhead Hen with Wave Stabilizing Bottom, Detroit, MI, ca. 1940s*

He recalls that it didn't hurt that the prices seemed "more reasonable" in those days as well.

Today, Keith's decoy collection consists of the work of notable Michigan makers include Tom Schroeder, Ben Schmidt, Nick Purdo, Capt. John Schweikart, and John Zachmann. Canadian carvers represented include Bud Tully, Arthur Wilkinson, and Bob Burke.

Keith also enjoys miniatures and his home features shelves dedicated to these small wonders. An eclectic mix of carvings including work by Hy Crandall, Frank Finney, Mike Valley, Eddie Wozny, J. B. Garton, Bob Kerr, and Jack Reeves. Among this group is a stunning, 9-1/2" standing Sandhill Crane made by Tom Schroeder. Despite what he says are some serious space constraints, Keith is looking to add pieces by Ferdinand Bach, John Wells and George Warin to his flock. He is still also looking for a good Canvasback by Michigan maker Ray Zaterka.

While it's like trying to pick a favorite child, Keith says that an unknown solid body, black duck in a breast preening pose from Prince Edward County, Ontario Canada is among his most prized birds. A close second is a mint, never used Canvasback by John Zachmann that pairs nicely with a nearly identical mini by the same maker.

## Small Ammunition and Firearms Company Advertising

Among the lesser known items that Keith collects are small promotional pinbacks, fobs and medals from ammunition and firearms companies. Keith was introduced to trapshooting by friends at an early age and fondly remembers attending many trap shoots where representatives from Winchester, Remington, Federal Cartridge Corp. and the like would be on hand giving away these promotional items.

*National Sportsman pin, ca. 1920s*



*Pinback, fob & medal advertising display*





*Final rare pin that completed Keith's Peters collection, 1896*



*Ballistite pin, ca. 1900*



*Austin Pin, 1897*

Keith eventually met pin collector Marshall Davis, who would become Keith's primary source of information on these pieces and a personal mentor. This relationship was critical since there are no collector reference books on these items, so collectors have to rely on each other to understand each company's production and to assess value. He learned that the earliest of these items were metal and started to appear in the late 1870s. With the advent of new technology manufacturers switched to celluloid around 1895.

Keith's collection today consists of over 750 pinbacks, fobs and

medals dating as early as 1874. These include examples from UMC, Remington, Winchester, Dupont, American Powder Mills, Austin, as well as Claybrough guns.

While these high production cost items certainly have some individual value, Keith has learned that the real value comes from their provenance and in assembling a full set of a particular company's output. Keith happily reports that he just recently purchased one of his most expensive pinbacks at an online auction. It was the last one he needed to complete an entire collection of all known Peters Cartridge Company pins.

## Gun Club Shooting Medals

Another fascinating category of interest to Keith are gun club live pigeon and, later, trap shooting medals awarded to top shooters at gun clubs throughout the country. The earliest live pigeon trophy can be traced back to 1836. However, live pigeon shooting was outlawed in many states by the early 1900s, after which these shooting contests shifted to using clay pigeons. In fact, the last sanctioned

live pigeon shoot was in 1902 and records indicate that none other than Annie Oakley was one of the participants. It is interesting to note that glass target balls were also used for a short period of time beginning in



*Dupont promotional medal*



*Colorado Gun Club Medal (gold/silver) awarded to Wm. Buffmire, ca, 1890s.*





*Gun club medal display*

1866. However, their use declined precipitously with the introduction of clay targets in 1880.

These elaborate medals are one-of-a-kind items each made for a specific shoot. There are no duplicates. They were made in gold (22, 18 and 10 karat), silver and even aluminum, and were often adorned with precious gem such as sapphires, diamonds and rubies.

In addition, attendance pins or fobs, usually celluloid, were often given to shooters and can be quite rare depending on their provenance, age, and condition.

Like the small ammunition and firearms advertising category, there is very little published information on these rare gun club medals. So, Keith had to rely on other collectors for his education. Enter Dick



*Early Live Pigeon Medal in Gold & Sterling, Dayton, OH*



*Ligowsky "Champion of Indiana" Clay Pigeon Medal in Gold & Sterling, 1883-84*

Baldwin, an Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA) Hall of Famer, author of "The Road to Yesterday: A collection of Old Trapshooting Stories," and long-time employee of the Remington Arms Company. As Keith describes it, Baldwin WAS his education on these gun club medals. As director of the ATA Museum, Baldwin was without doubt the most knowledgeable



person anywhere about this rare medals and their history. The two spoke at least twice a month for many years and became dear friends until Baldwin's tragic death in 2006.

Keith recalls that, upon taking over the reins at the museum, Baldwin uncovered some early correspondence from a woman who had a medal that her grandfather had won. He eventually discovered that her grandfather was J.A.R. Elliot, one of the most highly decorated live pigeon shooters of

the late 1800's and was the only shooter ever to hold all the important live-bird trophies of national interest at the same time: the *Sportsmen's Review* trophy, DuPont Cup, Republic Cup, and the Cast Iron Medal.

Finding pieces for his collection has been a challenge since there are relatively few known collectors of these items. In addition to scouring antique malls, he has established a small network of pickers on the east and west coasts where the lion's

share of these clubs were located. He also watches online auctions including Ebay where he once found one of his most prized pieces — a 1873 perpetual gun club pigeon shooting medal from Kansas City Fishing and Hunting Club that is sterling silver with three strands of 30 individual pigeon shoot medallions (engraved on both sides). A shooter had to win three consecutive pigeon shoots in order to retire the medal and keep it.

Keith's collection of these spectacular gun club medals is rich in history, each telling a story unique to its winner. It currently includes more than 250 pieces ranging 1873 to the 1950s. Among his favorites is the Clay Pigeon Medal introduced by George Ligowsky promoting his 1880 newly developed clay target. The award is significant both because of its beauty and because Ligowsky is widely credited with the invention of the clay pigeon.

## Other "Stuff"

Now, one might think that these three significant collections would be enough for any collector. However, Keith broad interest means that he collects just about everything related to sporting collectibles. He has a significant collection of 410 gauge shell boxes. He likes their smaller size because they take up less room. At the same time he has an advanced collection of wood ammunition boxes including several harder to find Peters and Winchester pieces. And just for good measure, Keith has assembled an assortment of vintage bobbers and lures that he has picked up along the way as he searched for other treasures.



Front



Back

*Kansas City Fishing & Hunting Club perpetual medal, 1873*



As he puts it, Keith will collect just about anything that is unique. He recalls attending a big antique fair in Rochester, Minnesota years ago and finding a 22" Lennox vase with an A.B. Frost hunting scene that was commissioned by the Hunter Arms Co. as a trap shooting trophy. The scene depicts a high booted hunter with a double barrel shotgun, and two dogs flushing a couple of quail. Keith contacted a friend who collect-



*Lennox Hunter Arms Shooting-Trophy Vase*

ed Hunter Arms pieces and learned that this was one of only two known to exist – the other being housed in the Hunter Arms museum. Quite a find for sure!

## Sharing His Passion

Keith has been exceedingly generous in sharing his knowledge of so many different sporting collectible areas. He has written a number of articles in "Hunting & Fishing Collectibles" magazine on Peter's pinbacks (May/June, 2020), fish decoys (March/April, 2007), and live pigeon medals (March/April, 2006). He has also written a pieces for "On Target" magazine on shooting medals (Fall /Winter, 2004) and even on glass target balls.

Keith also has a website (UniqueSportingCollectibles.com) dedicated to preserving the history



*Decoy, ammo & shell box, trophy display*

of a variety of items including pinbacks, game calls, decoys, and trapshooting related items. The site includes items for sale as well as pieces from his personal collections that he gladly shares to help educate others.

Our special thanks to Keith for his willingness to share all of his varied interests with us. He can be reached at [krbuchert@gmail.com](mailto:krbuchert@gmail.com).