

Come See Us at Pheasant Run



**North American
Vintage Decoy & Sporting
Collectibles Show**
April 17-23, 2016
Pheasant Run Resort
St. Charles, IL



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OUR NEW LOCATION: Legends/Jack Nicklaus Room

**PUBLISHER'S
NOTE**

We're a traveling band

The timeframe between the end of January and the beginning of May is the busiest part of the show schedule for the entire year. And as far as we're concerned, that's a good thing. It also includes some of our favorite shows. So far we've been to Maryland, Minnesota, South Carolina and Virginia, attending three decoy auctions along the way. (See our show recaps beginning on page 14 and our auction reports on page 36.) We're like a traveling band, but unfortunately we don't have a team of roadies to help with the logistics.

We're now at the "hump day" part of the journey, about to head out to Ohio for the Great Lakes Decoy Association gathering in Westlake. The hotel has now been completely renovated - last year it was like a construction site - so we're looking forward to the improved accommodations and services - like a functioning bar and restaurant. Nonetheless, we had a great show last year and look forward to our return.

Due to the Easter holiday, the New Jersey Decoy Collectors Association will be holding their one day show the first Saturday in April, followed by the Frank & Frank auction the following day about an hour north. We had hoped that the club would figure out a way to combine both of these events in one location - maybe even make it a two-day show - but unfortunately we haven't yet garnered any support for that idea.

The following weekend is the East Coast Decoy Collectors annual buy, sell and swap meet in St. Michaels, Maryland. The club takes over the St. Michaels Motor Inn for the better part of three days as collectors set up in about 75 rooms in the motel. Temperatures on the Delmarva Peninsula are expected to reach the 80s this week, and hopefully the warm weather will hang around as it's much more fun, and conducive to business, when it's comfortable enough to keep the doors open.

In addition to the room activity, dozens of dealers tailgate in the parking lot and across the street, and nearly all of the top dealers and auction houses in the country take a room. The weekend is capped off by a cookout on Saturday afternoon, which includes a generous buffet and lots of good Long Island wine, and a local band provides entertainment. Most who attend this event take advantage of the close proximity of the Guyette & Deeter auction house, which provides

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PUBLISHERS NOTE

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an excellent opportunity to preview the decoys for their upcoming sale.

About ten days later we head to St. Charles, Illinois to attend the North American Vintage Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show, sponsored by the Midwest Decoy Collectors Association and held at the Pheasant Run Resort. This event used to be billed as the National Antique Decoy Show, as there are more “hard core” decoy collectors, from all parts of North America, who attend this event than any other show. For many, this is a near weeklong gathering, some arriving as early as Sunday or Monday for the room to room activity, which this year will have a new wrinkle.

Most of us for years set up in one of the rooms we’ve referred to as “the barracks,” and last year collectors were reportedly selling birds in roughly 160 of those rooms. We were notified at the time that the resort intends to tear those buildings down. So the show committee was tasked with assigning new rooms for nearly everyone, most into a group of roughly 100 rooms in three buildings known as the golf wing. You can do the math.

We understand that some dealers will share one of those rooms and spend their nights in the tower. Others will be grouped into one of a num-

ber of common rooms on the main floor. While some are guaranteed to be unhappy with the new arrangements, we actually think it could have a positive effect. By grouping all of the dealers in a more confined space, it should make it easier for collectors, logistically, to visit them all. Come see us in room 3116.

In addition to the room to room activity, there is a seminar on Minnesota decoys on Thursday morning, a two-day Guyette & Deeter auction on Thursday and Friday, and a Mega Center ballroom show on Friday and Saturday that features various exhibits (see our cover story on page 24) and over 300 dealer tables. If you’re not decoyed out by the end of the week, you’ve got more stamina than we do.

For the 35th consecutive year, we’ll be attending the Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival the first weekend in May. What began as an event to generate funding to build the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is now its biggest fundraiser of the year. The vendors at this show are split about evenly between those selling vintage decoys – most from the Chesapeake Bay area – and those carving modern day Upper Bay style decoys and decoratives. On Saturday they hold an Old Decoy Contest, sponsored by Decoy Magazine, which features ten categories for entry (see page 19). The show attracts collectors from the surrounding states and

receives strong support from the local community.

This year we’ll be extending our spring schedule into June, as the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association will be starting a new one-day show in Annapolis, Maryland. For the last couple years the club has scheduled two of their monthly meetings – in February and June – at the Elks Lodge on a Sunday afternoon to attract collectors who are otherwise unable to attend the Tuesday night get-togethers in Northern Virginia. It’s proven so popular that they decided to make the June meeting a more formal show, hoping to attract even more collectors to the event. We’re looking forward to this inaugural attempt.

While this schedule may sound daunting to some, it’s actually sweet music to our ears. A great majority of our members attend one or many of these shows, and they are the most effective way to introduce Decoy Magazine to new enthusiasts. Not only do we appreciate the business aspects of these events, we also enjoy the social camaraderie, as many friends are encountered along our journey. And, of course, they present myriads of opportunities to add a decoy, or maybe more, to the collection, which is the biggest reason that all of us attend. I know this sounds like a broken record, but we hope to see you there too.



51ST NORTH AMERICAN

Pheasant Run Resort,
St. Charles, IL

**Vintage Decoy &
Sporting Collectibles Show**

April 19–23,
2016



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