



# Minnesota Decoy & Wildfowl Carving Club

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 9

September 2009

## August Meeting Minutes

The August meeting was called to order by President Steve Stortz and a motion was made and passed to accept the minutes of the July 2009 meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance of \$5158.35.

**Librarian's Report:** Pleeeeee bring 'em' back !!

**Program:** The September meeting will be Donn Mattsson's first return to teaching since he walked out of his Bryant Jr. High School classroom 36 years ago. The subject will center around the unique shorebird species called phalaropes. The goal will be for members to create and/or pick a pattern for their carvings. CD's with reference photos will be available along with glass eyes.

**Old Business:** Game Fair—Tom Fleming has sent out final instructions to volunteers. He will also provide a cooler with ice, pop, and bottled water.

Tom is also working on a possible Pat Godin seminar but doesn't think it will happen this fall because of conflicts.

Wood for coot project—Cedar wood still hasn't been purchased. Some confusion about availability. Brian Grott mentioned that he may have a contact. Final solution

to be announced.

**New Business:** Dennis Finden has been contacted by Pheasants Forever Youth chapter from Rosemount. They would like a carver to be present on Aug. 22. Any volunteers?

Steve Froelich suggested exploring the possibility of bringing back the Northern Nationals Show. He volunteered to start a committee to look into this. He suggested a 6:00 PM meeting at the 58 Club on Sept. 1st.

The Renaissance Fair is looking for woodcarvers. No one seemed very interested.

**August Program— Spearing  
Fish Decoys John and Greg  
Pususta**



### MDWCC Officers 2009

#### President

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Marv Meyer 612.861.4616

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Steve Froelich

MDWCC website:

[www.mdwcc-carving-club.com](http://www.mdwcc-carving-club.com)

**Next Meeting: 7:00 PM**

**September 1st**

**Program: Phalaropes**

**Donn Mattsson**

Hope Lutheran Church

5728 Cedar Ave. So.

Mpls. MN



# Show & Tell

## Marv Meyer

Canvasback—carved from a solid block of butternut, walnut stained

Duck calls—star jointed

## Jupe Homan

Spearing decoy made by Marv Meyer form a moose antler

## Matt Gouette

Canvasback –maple keel, hollowed

## Frank Beery

Mallard drake– based on the Tom Matus carving book– unfinished

## Paul Thompson

Redstart warblers-pair with habitat, tupelo, brass leaves

## Brian Grott

Pintail hen—purchased in Indiana

## Steve Froelich

Great Blue Heron-interpretive carving from a cedar root. Oil paints, walnut base.

## Greg Pususta

Snapping Turtle– basswood, dogwood tail, acrylics



# August Show and Tell

## Phabulous Phalaropes



Frank Beery



Marv Meyer



Paul Thompson



Marv Meyer



Greg Pususta

St

u



Show and Tell con't.

Dave's Ribbon



Matt Gouette



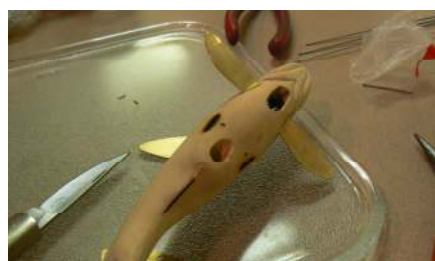
Steve Froelich



### August program con't.

John and Greg Pususta are brothers that are full time carvers living in the Montrose area. Although they carve everything from ducks, turtles, turkey calls, and chainsaw bears, they are probably best known for their fish and spearing decoys. At the August meeting they teamed up to show us how they go about producing one of their spearing decoys.

Basswood is used for the body and brass for the fins which are usually flat shimstock. The flat fins act like wings to give the fish balance and 'swimability' which are the essential ingredients for a decoy, especially a competition piece. The body is hollowed out in the gill area and just in front of the vent. This is where the molten lead is poured. The lead also helps lock in the fins. The next step is to seal the fish and all openings with a highly porous acrylic mix



that dries a white color. This product is called Smooth-Cast 300. It is a 2 part system that can be found at Dick Blick's. John and Greg really like the product.



Once the fish is sealed and lightly sanded the Pusustas usually paint with acrylics. Using an airbrush gives their spearing decoys a beautiful finish. See below



The brothers realize that most of their decoys will probably never be used because they typically end up on someone's mantle. However they make every spearing decoy as if it will be used and they insist that there are no shortcuts. Their attention to detail is evident in all their work. And their work is very nice.

