

October 3, 2017 DCCE in-person meeting: 2017 wrap up discussion (#11)

Committee present: Joe Porten, Don Kirby, Bruce Urban

Don reviewed the financial summary that was prepared by Kelcy, and he revised, with additional expense submissions. In the whole, we nearly met our goal of breaking even, falling about \$650 short of that goal, not accounting for the additional expense of approximately \$1000 in tee shirts which will be sold on-line and used at upcoming events. (this spreadsheet will be e-mailed to the full committee, following this evening's mtg)

The group discussed the merits of several key areas of the event including potential review of: cash awards, ribbons/rosettes, expenses that might increase or decrease if the event were to move to a Richfield venue.

Bruce read off Mike's overall event review-of-action report, for group discussion.

Bruce read off Diane's registration perspective review of action report, for group consideration.

Both reviews request we attempt to find a registration program being used by another contest.
Both reviews indicate we need an alternate tagging program.
Both reviews indicate a need for more table space at the tank judging area.

Assignments:

Bruce will discuss w. Mike, several variables to be determined prior to our 10/16 meeting with Cabela's

Don will discuss with Rob, several variables to be determined prior to our 10/16 meeting with Cabela's

Need to determine what other competition exists in decoy contests, in August, besides the MI event on the 4th weekend of August. (no IWCA competitions listed in August for 2017...)

Once we've got these parameters better understood, Don will draft a business plan for our meeting, to be presented to Cabela's as a starting point in our planning...

Meeting with Cabela's: 9:30, Monday, October 16th

Next DCCE committee meeting: proposed for that same week, perhaps Tuesday night the 17th? To discuss anything learned from the meeting, prepare to set times/dates/parameters...

Diane and Mike's inputs attached on the next few pages... The financial review, separate attachment...

Adjourned at 8:10pm

dpk

2018 Carving Contest Discussion - Diane

Colored Rubber Bands

Species 1 -2 -3, Division 1- 2-3, BOS 1-2-3?

Easier to identify for Ribbons

Spreadsheets for Recording at tank

Decoy Tags – Size & Numbering?

Additional Divisions

Decorative, Shore Birds, Miniatures

Wood Holders for Categories

Number of Awards – Species & BOS for one Decoy?

Revisit Cash awards

Brainstorm decoy layout on tables

More Zip ties for large keels

Spreadsheet improvements

Check in with Ohio judges for comments – Mike?

Comment received on Registration forms

Discuss Vendor space at Cabelas

Wood & Book vendor probably won't come in tents!

After Action Review of 2017 Decoy competition - Mike

A big thank you to all who helped plan, organize and execute our inaugural decoy competition. For our first event I was impressed with the general lack of trauma and drama. We provided great judging, efficient decoy check in and check out, and a class experience for all the participants. After action reviews should comment on and discuss things that went well, things that did not go as well, and construct plans for future improvement. Before I list my items of happy faces and not so happy faces, I'd like to make a few general comments.

First, I was entirely impressed with the way the committee worked together to handle items that were their responsibility, and keep all things flowing on track. Having been to other contests, I can tell all of you that we were probably better organized than most, and given that most of you had never been to one or knew exactly what to expect, our results this year were nothing less than amazing. Our show did not seem like a first year show in appearance or the way things were handled.

Second, I would like to suggest that my title of Chairman was and is, a misnomer. I handled some important carver, judge, and decoy contest items, but the co-chairs were really Bruce and Don. They made all the logistical things of the contest go well, and managed not only themselves, but the entire project. For next year, I would hope we could start the planning process acknowledging this fact. I am glad to remain the "Chairman" for the sake of IWCA publishing and being the contact for carvers, but I still will see the functional chairs as Don and Bruce.

Third, it is important that we plan for next year with the idea that I will be exiting as carver chair after the 2018 show. I am still available for the committee to use as an adviser, but seriously want someone to step up to become a trainee for my position in the next year and learn to construct rules, answer carver questions, and be an ambassador for our show to the carving community.

Things that went well, and we need to keep on track:

- Decoy registration process was efficient and timely. Joe can comment on any tweaks he needs to make, but all decoys were cleared within 15 minutes of the close of registration. Given the high volume of decoys handled Saturday, this was a great thing
- The professionalism of the signage and layout reflected well upon WWA, Don, and the competition
- The things offered, shirts, buttons, raffles, etc. were high class and professional
- Judges did a great job and finished in a timely manner. I believe that the winning decoys deserved to be the winning decoys. We only had two errors at the tank that were taken care of at the tank, or by the end of the show
- One decoy did not get judged, it was placed in the wrong category, and by the time the mistake was discovered its category was done judging. It was awarded a species ribbon, and a division ribbon, but never got judged for BOS, which it may well have placed in.
- The carving community came together to support the show in the last three weeks before the show, and a number of them from southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois have volunteered to help at our show next year, especially if it is in Richfield
- The "Scennie" class was a big hit and got lots of interest
- All of the officers and staff were helpful and ready to work both days
- We had enough ribbons to award all the awards before the end of the show

Things that need improvement for next year

- Working with University staff and the bureaucracy was not conducive to predictable or smooth operations. Commitments were made that did not get followed, things were changed, etc. Getting a space for free to have the show is important, but so is getting a suitable site, with the freedom and authority to lay it out as needed. We won't be at UWSP next year, so no need to beat the point, except to make sure our new contact is more dependable
- Flow of decoys from display area to judging area to recorders and back to display area needs to be studied, mapped and formally laid out. Keeping the judging area closer to the display area would help a lot. We especially need to figure out ways to keep the first place and second place decoys together and ready for the best of division and best of show judging, but move other decoys out and back to the display area.
- Tags for decoys were a great idea, but too small for all the codes. Need a separate zip tie of longer length with a free sliding, larger tag that can have large, clear codes on it.
- Numbering system on the tags needs to be revamped, the idea of having multiple decoys with the same number caused some confusion. Each decoy needs a unique number, and there are many ways the system can be tweaked to achieve that. In some respects, the carver number could be last on the identifier tag, as the most important information items are competition class it is in (IWCA Style Decoy, etc), level of carver (Open, Intermediate, Novice), and decoy number (as an example 076, or 122). The final number, the carver, only is important when the results are recorded, up to that point, the carver really does not matter. How would it simplify things if when a winning decoy was brought to the table, the only number that needed to be recorded was the decoy number, which then links to the carver?
- Consider the option of having two tags on each decoy, one of which is removed as a hard copy identifier when ribbons are assigned. This would provide a fail safe device to assure decoys were logged in as far as placement correctly
- Judges and decoy handlers need a print out of the number of decoys by species being judged, so judges evaluating Sconnie open know they are supposed to have 5 bluebills in the tank, but if there are only 4 there, the fifth one can be located before judging has taken place.
- Ribbons need to be placed on all decoys before they go back on display and we need to find a way to clearly indicate the ribbons on decoys while they are waiting for best of division and best of show.
- When a decoy is no longer in contention, it should be immediately removed from judging area and taken back to display area
- Best of show decoys for each category need to have an elevated dais in their display area so spectators can see them immediately, with a slightly lower dais for division winners that do not place in best of show
- Decoys need to be displayed, after ribboning by species, with ribboned species decoys in descending order and together, i.e., if there are five canvasbacks, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd need to be displayed to the front and as a group, unless the 1st place bird is a division winner, or BOS placer
- We need more tables, handlers, and recorders in the judging area, with two recorders assigned to each judging group, and three decoy handlers moving decoys into, out of, and around in the tank.
- We need to consider the days of the show to allow more time for the decoys to be on display to the public after judging, perhaps having a Sunday check out of decoys
- We need to consider how we can attract more spectators, and customers for the vendors to the show
- We need to consider having interactive demonstrations or mini-seminars for carvers or would be carvers

- We need to brainstorm on how to raise funding for the show in all areas, raffles, gate, entries, grants, donations, etc.
- There are already some database and spreadsheet programs being used by shows to log in entries, carvers, and results. We need to solicit a show to give us their program and institute it before next show, early enough to do beta testing and training 90 days before the show or more.
- Results of the show need to be available ASAP, and the format of results needs to be by competition class, then by competitor level, then by species, with the winning carvers listed. So we need to list in a table 1st place mallard and the carver name, 2nd place mallard, and the carver name etc. so persons looking at the results can see entries by species and gender, plus the carvers who placed in each species. See example**
- Spreadsheet of results also needs to specify gender and in the case of species like teal, differentiate green wing, blue wing, and cinnamon; or scoters, surf, white wing, and black; Mergansers redbreasted, common, or hooded
- We need to confirm the site and dates of next year's show ASAP so we can start planning judging areas, tanks for judging, etc.
- The antique style decoys were fun and interesting, but did not get enough interest to justify continuing this category
- IWCA Working Decoys is a dying category, and we should eliminate it from next year's show, keeping Sconnie for those who want to compete gunning decoys. Carvers liked the Sconnie rules, and few contests offer IWCA Working Decoy contests, but like us, have their own gunning rules
- We had numerous requests leading up to the show for decorative classes in the competition. We should offer decorative classes in our competition as they produce entries that are very attractive to spectators, and it allows entries that include shorebirds, song birds, birds of prey, etc. They are judged "on the shelf" so no need to take to a tank, or move once they are placed.
- We need to consider changing our carver levels in all competitions to be like Sconnie, with Open and Amateur designations (with Amateur combining Novice and Intermediate), instead of Novice, Intermediate, and Open. IWCA allows this (or did last I understood the rules), and it would simplify judging, ribbons, and lower costs.

** Example

Sconnie Gunning Decoys

Open level Carvers

Puddle Ducks

Blue Wing Teal

1 st Place	John Jones	Hen
2 nd Place	John Jones	Drake
3 rd Place	Bob Haskell	Drake