

## Geoff Vine-Wood Duck Drake Decoy

Say this for decoy collectors: we are among the most traditional folks you're ever likely to meet up with in this day and age. We all universally believe in the sanctity of Elmer Crowell with many of us dividing off to worship at the churches of Wheeler, Mason, Perdw and the Wards. Virtually no one at any decoy show can be heard looking for the next new idea in decoys; quite to the contrary many of us are looking for contemporary carvers who can make convincingly old looking new decoys. I guess that explains why when I first saw this Wood Duck from Wisconsin's Geoff Vine my initial reaction was 'wow, now that's different!'

Geoff tells us "I have been experimenting with Jansen's Traditions acrylic paint to see how far I can take the oil painting techniques the system offers. Tom Matus helped me switch to this medium some years ago, and I have been working on developing new techniques on my own ever since. I have found some unique solutions experimenting on my own," he notes.

As you probably noticed, Geoff's decoys have no eyes, "I've seen Virginia and North Carolina decoys with no eyes. Most of my decoys have tack eyes. Now I've finally gotten to the point where I leave them out completely" Geoff observes. As luck would have it we've profiled Pete Peterson's new Currituck style of 'blind' decoy in this month's column.

I see a lot of different carving styles from my perch here at the magazine and I've got to tell you Geoff is doing the most unusual style I've seen in years, they are quite literally 21<sup>st</sup> century style. "My decoys have lots of blending, but retain brilliant colors and contrast with hard clean line," Geoff notes with pride, "It's simple, I'm trying to achieve the essence of the species in the fewest steps possible, but no more."

These decoys would show very well in an ultra contemporary décor scheme featuring chrome, glass and leather, a look most traditional decoys wouldn't fit into. The nice thing is that they're still egg shell hollow carved, rigged and weighted and meant to be used to hunt over. And don't worry; Geoff still carves traditional birds as well. You can see more of Geoff Vine's work at [www.GVineDecoys.com](http://www.GVineDecoys.com) or e-mail him at [Geoff@GVineDecoys.com](mailto:Geoff@GVineDecoys.com)

