

Missouri Taxidermist Association

August 2008

Improving the Art of Taxidermy
Through Continuing Education Since 1980



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August 2008 Business Meeting Minutes

The meeting began with a reading of the May Business Meeting Minutes. The minutes were approved. Then the financial report was given and approved.

Doug Pettig gave a report on the hotel bids he had received. He said most compared to what we pay at Stoney Creek, but one stood out. Capital Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City offered (2) 3,000 sq. ft. rooms for the sum of \$175.00 for the entire weekend, and a hospitality suite for \$300.00 for the weekend which would put our expense at less than \$500.00 for the convention rooms. The room rate for members would be \$80 plus tax; the same as Stoney Creek and this place has an in house restaurant which would be convenient for guests. Doug and Christine had visited it personally. Donnie and I had also stopped in to look around, and Dewayne Bauer and Randy Pike have both stayed there; so we all could vouch that it is a very nice place. The motion was made to accept Capital Plaza. The motion was seconded, and passed with a show of hands by majority vote.

Gary Sharp was asked for a report on where we stand with regard to recovering outstanding funds. He said that the Bank of Hamilton received approx. \$2,000 of our funds and a branch of Bank of America (NE MO State Bank) is expected to return Rick Morris' check of nearly \$350. He believes we will receive the Morris' check within the month. He is still working with the Div. of Finance in J.C. on the Hamilton Bank funds. He reports that, "the tone of the letters is getting nastier". He says the Division doesn't have much authority, but one of the checks that were deposited into the Hamilton Bank was an out of state check which may be a way to get the FDIC involved. Gary has spoken with an ex-Federal Bank Examiner who will help guide him through the steps of presenting the documentation to the FDIC in the hopes that they in turn can investigate the Bank of Hamilton.

Next Bill Zimmerman was asked to give a report on the Missouri Deer Classic. He said we had a "bad year". People had backed out on contracts with him. We had fewer people through the door this year. Apparently, the Bass Pro Truck that was parked inside this year was an added expense due to special wiring needed to run it (approx. \$1,200). Basically, we had less income and more expenses. The final balance was \$315 after bills were paid. Bill invited anyone with questions to speak to him personally. He says the records are open to all members of the organizations involved. He also asked members to "give me names for vendors". He says he has a contract through the 2009 Classic. He already has Steve Bartel and Bud Dickson signed up for next year. He also has Randy Oncker(?) signed up for next year. He plans to move the MTA display to the concrete outside the arena on one side and the antler display will be opposite us on the other side.

Bill stressed that we (the MTA) need to have a bigger display. We were down quite a bit on mounts this year. Bill says the billboard will not be done again this year. Lee Smith suggested that the number of scorers be reduced. Although they do not receive pay directly, their expenses such as hotel rooms, meals, etc. are paid. He also suggested that entry should be raised to at least \$8 per person.

When asked where the Classic had been advertised, Bill mentioned the billboard by Hooters, and some radio stations. Randy suggested running a state wide newspaper ad. Ron & Sonja Terry suggested that Bill & Jeri Lou could contact the Springfield office of the 4-H to see about getting word of the Classic to all the branches of the organization. Some other suggestions were: Community Calendar, MO Conservationist

calendar. Scott Brassfield commented that we need to change the timing to a different weekend because of a clash with the Iowa Classic. James Graham said he spoke to Candy. She says she has a contract with a booking agency and has no say where she goes. But she suggested we should get Bass Pro or Cabela's to co-sponsor our show.

Gary Sharp asked how much seed money would be needed to start up again-Bill said \$2,000 at most. Gary asked, "Can we risk putting up seed money again?" Bill said, "I took the Classic over to help keep expenses down." Gary asked again, "does the MTA have the finances?" Doug Pettig suggested we decide after the meeting of the organizations involved which is to be held Aug. 10th, 2008 at 10 am at the Boone County Fairgrounds. We will know more then, and we will know where the other organizations stand. The decision will probably be made at the winter meeting.

This year all (3) three executive offices were up for election and (2) board member positions. Each position had only one nominee. Each nominee accepted the nomination and was duly voted in. As of the winter meeting, our new President will be Doug Pettig, Vice President will be Lee Smith, Secretary/Treasurer will be Debbie Cross, remaining for his second term as Board Member is Garland Lessley, and coming in as a new Board Member is Cole Cruickshank. (Don Cross and Rick Morris remain as the other two Board Members until their positions are voted on next year.)

A motion was made to change the proceedings for the People's Choice voting. It was decided to try setting aside a half hour block of time after the judging is completed and before any ribbons, etc. are placed for the people to go in and make their choice. We will also be looking into making up a schedule to allow the vendors to close up shop during seminars at which time they can have a needed free time.

We discussed the possibility of scheduling critique times with the judges between seminars. This would allow the judges to know when they were needed in the competition area as will as allow the members a planned opportunity to receive their critique without confusion of who and where the judge is.

Cole Cruickshank put forth several ideas of future sponsors for other awards as well as some ideas for future seminars. It was decided to postpone further discussion until the winter meeting when he takes his place on the board, and we will have more time to discuss in detail.

The motion was made to adjourn, 2nded, and unanimously agreed upon. Meeting was adjourned.

MTA NEWS

The first day of the convention and competition was a little hectic registering, getting the mounts all in and placed. Garland's seminar on antler rejuvenation & fabrication was given high praise and continued throughout the weekend. For all those who attended H.A. Nixon's storytelling, there is no forgetting those well told tales. Everyone had favorites and they were more than willing to share with us less fortunate souls. (The amazing part being that, as far as we can discover, these stories are true!!)

Saturday began with Mike Orthober's bird seminar which got a glowing review. Our first seminar aimed toward the ladies and children was, I believe, a success. Judy brought lots of cool supplies for us and shared some neat ideas on making pictures look special. Thanks to Judy, and a very special thank you to Sherry Graham for setting this up for us. The day continued with Pat Wagner's seminar on setting eyes, ears, & nose on a whitetail. I know a lot was learned from him. That evening those who attended the banquet got to enjoy good food and fellowship, and the awards presentation and live auction followed.

Sunday began with a Sunday morning service geared toward the taxidermist lead by Terry Miller. Thank you, Terry. Afterward, award winners were getting pictures taken with their trophies and mounts, and Rodney Schreurs gave a seminar on competition techniques for mammals. The convention finished with a very productive business meeting. New officers were elected for the upcoming year, and a lot of good ideas from members on a variety of subjects were presented. We hope to utilize some of these for next year's show. Thanks to all who attended and participated.

The judges did a great job for us again this year, our thanks to them for their judging and critiques, as well as their seminars. The convention was well attended with 45 registrations from members (including several family memberships) and two (non-member) out-of-state competitors. From those attending, we had 72 pieces entered in the competition this year. We had several awards that weren't awarded this year due to lack of blue ribbons in certain areas and lack of entries in others. (No one entered in the Best All Around or the Best

Overall Professional this year.) A lot of thought and work goes into the pieces brought each year, and we hope each member has learned a lot and will come back next year having put these lessons into practice.

Thank you to each of our vendors. Thank you to McKenzie Supply Company and Research Manikins for the awards each company sponsors and for coming year after year to our show. A special thank you for the donations to our auction. We greatly appreciate all you do for us! (Thank you Phil & Randy!) Whitetail Trading Co. and Modern Fur Dressers made a showing in the hide department, and we thank you both for your donations to our auctions. Tim Thacker was with us on Sat. bringing his reproduction antlers and some great hunting videos, and we had a couple of new draws this year with American Insurance Alliance (liability insurance specifically with the taxidermy shop in mind) and a booth for Hunt of a Lifetime (a non-profit organization that does special hunts for terminally ill children).

Thank you to Robin Raisch for presenting the Missouri Conservation Agents Assoc. Awards, to Kevin Witworth for presenting the Missouri Trappers Assoc. Awards, and to John Burk for presenting the National Wild Turkey Federation Awards. These awards are always looked forward to, and we get to enjoy the company of the presenters during the banquet. Thanks guys!

The Silent and Live Auctions were a success this year thanks to all of those who brought donations and those who made the bids. A special thanks to Garland Lessley who donated (2) seminars and to Bruce Owens who also donated a seminar. Thank you, Bill, for the great job of auctioneering during the live auction and to your two helpers, Miss Zoe Zimmerman and Kevin Witworth of the Missouri Trappers Assoc. You made it fun for us all. Last, but certainly not least, **Thank you to all of those behind the scenes putting the Auctions together. Without your hard work there would be no auctions.**

As always, every show (The Classic & The Competition) begins with the setting up and ends with the tearing down. This entails bringing the backboards in from the trailer and attaching legs to them and positioning them in the show area. After the show, this procedure is done in reverse. Taking care of the mounts is a very small part of the actual work involved, and anyone leaving before everything is done should be ashamed. (New members excepted; due to not knowing.) **Every member who is capable of helping should!!** The more help the quicker the job is completed. Thank you to those who did the work for everyone else.

A membership dues form is located on the last page of this newsletter. Anyone who has not paid their 2008-2009 dues should get it sent in ASAP. Thanks!

The list of winners and their awards is as follows:

(Due to circumstances beyond our control, errors were made in the presenting of awards, and we took steps to rectify them.):

Master Division

Bruce Owens from Winfield, MO received the **Best of Show, Best of State, Breakthrough Award** and \$100 check *(which is selected by the judges)* and the **Best of Category Master Division -Bird** for his Common Eider.

Devin Amelunke from Fredericktown, MO received the **Vandyke's Award** *for most original & creative piece*, and **Best of Category Master Division- Small Mammal** with his (3) coyotes.

James Graham from Frankford, MO received the **WASCO Award** and \$100 gift certificate *for most artistic entry* with his Wood Duck.

Garland Lessley from Huntsville, MO received **Best of Category Master Division-Rep/Recrea.** and the **Polytranspar Award** and \$50 gift certificate *for the highest scoring mount painted with Polytranspar paints* with his Timber Rattlesnake. He was also awarded the **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation-Master Division** award for his Mule Deer and the **Art. Rocks-Habitat Award** for the *highest scoring piece using art. rocks* on his Mule Deer base.

Jeff Preston from Centralia, MO received the **Best Overall Whitetail Award** *this is given to the highest scoring whitetail in the competition.*

Cindy Cunningham from Kansas, KS received **Best Out of State** *which goes to the highest scoring mount by an entrant from another state*, the **Missouri Trapper's Association-Master Division**, and the **Taxidermist Choice-Mammal** with her Wolverines.

Stephen Dotson from Jackson, MO received the **Missouri Conservation Agents Assoc. -Master Division** with his Mallard Duck and the **Taxidermist Choice-Bird** with his Shoveler.

James Wood from Collins, MO received the **National Wild Turkey Federation-Master Division** for his Turkey.

Professional Division

Joe Bissonnette from Troy, MO received the **Best of Category Professional Division-Gamehead** for his Mule Deer.

Cole Cruickshank from Cameron, MO received the **Best of Category Professional Division-Repro/Recrea., Best Professional Mount**, and the **Starfish Award** for his Large Mouth Bass.

Curt Shahan from Columbia, MO received the **Best of Category Professional Division-Whitetail** and the **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation-Professional Division** for his Mule Deer.

Jimmy Lawrence from Bedford, IA received the **Taxidermist Choice-Fish** for his Repro/Recrea. Pink Salmon.

Carol Richards from Lancaster, MO received the **Missouri Trapper's Association -Professional Division** for her Gray Foxes.

Ron Terry from Nevada, MO received the **Taxidermist Choice Whitetail Award** for his Whitetail.

Bill Zimmerman from California, MO received the **Missouri Conservation Agents-Professional Division** and the **National Wild Turkey Federation Award** for his Turkey.

Amateur Division

Dawn Cross from Hermann, MO received the **Best Amateur, the Missouri Trapper's Association-Amateur,** and the **Missouri Conservation Agents-Amateur Division** with her Red Fox.

Dalton Chapman from Rosebud, MO received the **Paul Schwartz Award** (*this is given to an amateur taxidermist under the age of 16 who has the highest scoring mount in the amateur division*), and the **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation-Amateur Division** with his Raccoon.

This year's **MCKENZIE AWARD** was presented to **Gary Sharp** of Booneville, MO for his outstanding help in supporting and promoting the Association.

The **PRESIDENT'S AWARD** (*which is selected and given by the president of the MTA*) was presented to **James Graham** of Frankford, MO in recognition of his services on behalf of the Association.

Congratulations to all of the award winners!! And congratulations to those who received ribbons for their entries. Everyone who enters helps to make the competition a success. **Thanks to All!!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Seminar
Missouri Deer Classic
June Meeting @ River Hills
MTA Convention & Competition

Jan. 3rd & 4th, 2009
Feb. 28th & March 1st, 2009
unknown
August 7th, 8th, & 9th, 2009

MTA FINANCIAL REPORT
August 8, 2008

INCOME

Balance as of May 26, 2008	\$ 4,211.81
Funds Recovered & Received (7-5-08)	358.00
Dues & Registrations (includes banquets pd)	8,183.00
Silent & Live Auctions (@convention)	2,162.35
Unanimous Donation (cash)	<u>546.50</u>
Total	\$15,761.66

EXPENSES

Stoney Creek Inn (includes convention rooms & banquet)	\$ 5,111.59
Judges Rooms (one complimentary)	713.92
Judges Fees & Misc. Expenses (including travel)	3,613.25
Ribbons & Awards	1,107.24
Newsletters & Postage	196.86
Office Supplies	80.11
Miscellaneous (gift certificate & refunds)	<u>230.00</u>
Total	\$11,052.97

Balance on hand (August 8, 2008) \$ 4,869.76

President's Message

I want to thank everyone who helped to make our Convention a success. It was great to see old faces and new ones too. We were down on mounts this year. I guess people are just busy. I know I have been.

My term as President will end in January. It has been a privilege to serve. There were times when it was a challenge, but with the help of others we all made it through it. Doug will be taking over in January, and I hope everyone will do everything they can to help out. It's not an easy job. I want to give special thanks to Debbie Cross. She makes my job so much easier!

MTA president, Dewayne Bauer

Missouri Deer Classic News

The "Deer Classic" meeting was attended by Pres. Dewayne Bauer, V.Pres. Doug Pettig, Sec/Treas. Debbie Cross, and (2) Board Members, Garland Lessley & Don Cross representing the MTA. There were also a couple of representatives there from the other organizations involved. Bill & Jeri Lou led the meeting with a Statement of Revenues & Expenditures.

The meeting began with Bill explaining that the billboard cost \$6,000.00, and he will not be using it again this year. When asked about the contract he spoke of at our MTA meeting, Bill said it was a contract for the Fairgrounds for 2009, and he had signed it as the representative of all (3) organizations. We (the MTA) were told we could pull out, if we want, without it costing us anything. Also, Bill & Jeri Lou said they wouldn't need any of the organizations to put seed money in this year. They said the vendors' fees are what actually pay for the "start-up" costs.

The 2009 Classic is scheduled for Feb. 28th & March 1st which would put us 1 week ahead of the Iowa show, and one week after the Illinois show. A lot of the things discussed at our MTA business meeting were brought up. The idea of using the Associated Press to get word to all the state papers was one everyone agreed on. Advertising in some of the free magazines in the state was suggested. Don Roper suggested that the members of each organization do a kind of "blanket" pamphlet hand-out to vendors at outdoor shows across the state and in surrounding states when possible. The pamphlets would have information about the Classic as well as contact information for Bill & Jeri.

Don also suggested having a BIG BUCKS Contest. The idea seemed to have some merit, and it was decided to charge a \$15 charge which would include the door fee & entry fee, and the competitor's antler receipt would give him free entrance on Sun. to pick up his deer. One of the organizations said they would donate a bow to the largest bowkill. And the MTA was asked to donate a deer mount to be done by a member of the organization. (A deadline should be applied; so it doesn't drag out indefinitely.) He also said he thought it was time to invite SHOW ME BIG BUCKS back. He believes, if we give them a booth to set up their display and have them there to register antlers in their book, it might help our draw. Garland suggested possibly using it as a promotional draw on ads and flyers, etc. "Show Me Big Bucks rejoining Missouri Deer Classic for XXth Anniversary". Another idea was to have a Trail Camera Photo Contest. Have an outdoor shop sponsor it and donate a trail camera as the prize. Let the people who come through during the weekend vote for the favorite, and charge a \$5 fee to enter. The 3-D bowshoot will be a tournament. The actual details are not known at this time. People from the organizations will be needed to help run it.

With regards to running things, we were told due to the MTA removing our competition from the Classic, the job of placing antlers and mounts in the arena area, when they're brought through the door, is now included in our job description. There will be a sign up sheet posted at the MTA booth for all members attending to sign for a two hour shift during the weekend.

Bill is still trying to get a big name draw for this coming Classic. He is going to work on getting some of the bigger companies around to sponsor the Classic. He & Jeri were asked to try radio stations around the entire state, and they plan to "trim the fat" from the paid work force wherever possible. They're hoping to make this coming Classic better than last year's, but they need help from all the organizations to do it. And there are no guarantees.

We will return for this coming year of 2009. Bill says the contract for the following year is usually signed before he leaves the fairgrounds after the Classic is over; so we will need to make any decisions that weekend, and let him know where we stand with regards to 2010.

Included in this newsletter is a copy of the 2009 Classic Flyer. Each member is asked to make copies of this flyer and pass them out to vendors when and wherever possible. Thank you for your help toward making next year's Classic a success.

The MTA is proud to welcome all of our new members this year. Several registered to come and some entered the competition for their first time. I hope you enjoyed your time with us, and I hope you learned new techniques you can use. I look forward to seeing you at future MTA functions.

This coming year promises to be better than our last. We are making some changes which should help to put the association on more secure financial footing, and we will be doing a few things differently at the convention next year to make things go a little more smoothly.

This past year as Acting Sec/Treas has been a challenge and a learning experience. I thank you all for your continued support. I will do my best as your elected Sec/Treas. (A very special thanks to those members who have been so patient and helpful when I have questions.)

Sec/Treas

Debbie Cross, MTA

WINTER SEMINAR

James Graham has put together what looks to be a fantastic winter seminar with himself, Marcus Detring, and Gary Sharp doing a Hands-on Seminar on **Mounting Life-Size Mammals & Gameheads**. (Possible projects mentioned were a Tahr and a Black Bear.) Those participating are encouraged to bring an animal you might be having problems with to work on during the two day seminar. Contact Marcus, James or Gary to let them know what you're bringing so they can get references together to help. (Contact me if you need phone numbers.)

The seminar will be on Sat. & Sun., **January 3 & 4, 2009**. It will begin at 9 a.m. It will be held at Curt Shahan's shop (Woodland Wonders) along I-70 East of Columbia. (Directions will be sent to those planning to attend upon request.) The **winter meeting** will take place following the seminar on **Sunday afternoon**. All members are welcome to attend. Our new officers will be taking up their respective positions, and we will be discussing the past year's happenings as well as the New Year's upcoming events.

cut here _____

MTA WINTER SEMINAR REGISTRATION

**Mounting Life-Size Mammals & Gameheads
January 3 & 4, 2009 @ 9 A.M.**

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

I will be attending the seminar listed above. I understand there is a cost for this seminar for attending and/or participating. I have enclosed payment with this registration form.

\$25___ Attending, but not participating \$50___ Participating **Yes** **No** I will need a hotel room#___nights

This seminar is currently scheduled for January 3 & 4, 2009. **PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2008**. I need a count on those who need a room to reserve a block at the hotel. A materials list, hotel information, and directions will be sent to those attending at a later date. There will also be a post on the web site: www.missouritaxidermist.org

Return to: MTA Seminar Registration, Debra Cross, 1659 Little Bay Rd., Hermann, MO 65041
For information call: (573) 943-6740

**2008-2009 MISSOURI TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION
Membership Renewal Form**

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

MTA Dues: \$40 Single \$50 Family Amount Enclosed: _____

Mail to: MTA, Debbie Cross, 1659 Little Bay Rd., Hermann, MO 65041
Or call: (573) 943-6740