



MISSOURI TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION

Improving the Art of Taxidermy
Through Continuing Education Since 1980

February 2013 Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

Missouri Deer Classic

The Missouri Deer Classic is going to be held on March 2nd and 3rd, 2013 at the Boone County Fairgrounds just north of Columbia. Although the MTA is not a sponsor a few of our members have shown interest in attending and setting up their own booths. Russ Pendergraft, Classic manager, told Doug that any MTA member who wants a booth can get one for \$100.00. If interested contact Doug as soon as possible so he can let Russ know how many will be attending and setting up a booth. The MTA will have its own booth at the Classic. This decision was made during the January meeting to keep the Association in the public eye. Any members present are asked to help. (There will be no seminar or meeting held at the Classic.)

May Seminar /Workshop & Meeting

The *May Seminar (Whitetail Finishing)/Work Day* has been scheduled for one day on *May 18th, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.* Our seminar/work day will be held at *Doug Pettig's shop, in Excello, MO.* As most of you know, Scott Brassfield is one of our many extraordinary master taxidermists here in MO. He has been successful competing with mammals, game heads, and whitetails. Scott plans to demonstrate his epoxy work, as well as his painting techniques for whitetails. These free seminars are one of the benefits of being a member, so take advantage of them when they take place. Directions from the North go approximately 7 miles south of Macon on Hwy 63 to Route T. Go west and take the first gravel road to the left, which is Kayak. Directions from the South go approximately 12 miles north of Moberly to Route T. Go west and take the first gravel road to the left, which is Kayak. *Doug will be feeding everyone who attends.* The business meeting will follow the seminar. All members are encouraged to attend so we can hopefully finish painting the backboards.

2nd Annual MO-KAN Live Mounting Contest

The live mounting contest will be held on June 1st, 2013 at Second Creation Taxidermy shop located at 11501 Riverview Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas. The Missouri Taxidermist Association and the Kansas Association of Taxidermists have joined together again for what should be a fun event. This is a live mounting competition, which means the mounts must be mounted on-site. Those that choose to compete will have 4 hours to work, and those that just choose to watch will have the option of moving from station to station learning how to do what they do. If there are 12 competitors, it will be like 12 seminars going on at one time. Observers are welcome to move around and watch everyone work. This should be a really fun event full of laughs and learning. Following the mounting portion lunch will be served and there will be an awards ceremony. Winners will be voted on by all in attendance. Space is limited, so anyone wanting to compete needs to contact Cole Cruickshank at 816-724-0271 or Cindy Cunningham at 913-422-3111 to register. All members of the MTA and the KAT are invited to attend at no charge. Come watch several taxidermist share tips, tell stories and their thing, then enjoy a free lunch and see who will be crowned the next MO-KAN Champion! Directions from MO: Take I-70 West to the 110th Street exit, turn left then right on Riverview Avenue, the shop is approximately one mile on the left. From KS: Take I-70 East to 110th Street exit, turn left then right on Riverview Avenue and the shop is one mile on your left.

Rules are as follows:

- Capes can be fully prepped, with exception to the ears. Ear liners, Bondo, or whatever other ear method you use must be done on site.
- Manikins must be prepped on site.
- Habitat bases (if applicable) may be pre-finished.
- Any taxidermy specimen is eligible, whether it is a bird, mammal, game head, or other.
- Competitors will have 4 hours to complete their mounts.
- After 4 hours has elapsed, everyone in attendance will vote and awards will be given to the first and second place finishers.

2013 MTA Competition and Convention

This year's convention will be held August 2nd - 4th, 2013 at the Country Club Hotel and Spa at Lake of the Ozarks. Judges for the 2012 competition are as follows: Whitetails - Bryan Eppley, Mammals/Game heads – Todd Kranau, Fish and Birds - Dan and Carmen Helmer, Amateur - Randy Pike. More information is available at the website, and will be included in the next newsletter.

Winter Workshop - Small Mammal Mounting

The winter seminar/business meeting was held on January 19th, 2013, at Doug Pettig's shop. Lance VanDusen gave an informative seminar on mounting a bobcat. Approximately 20 members attended and I am certain each of you learned something new. Thanks to Lance for giving the seminar. A big Thanks to Doug and Christine for the use of his shop and for providing lunch for those of us that attended.

****Important: Hands-on bird mounting seminar with Carmen****

At this year's convention Carmen Helmer is conducting a hands-on bird mounting seminar on Saturday. This seminar is geared toward professional level bird taxidermists looking to up their game. It is an intermediate level seminar and will go more smoothly if those participating are familiar with bird taxidermy. Space is limited to 6, so please call Cole at (816) 724-0271 to reserve a spot. Participants are asked to bring a bird that is skinned, fleshed, washed and degreased, and ready to dry. More details will be given when you register. Anyone registered at the show is more than welcome to attend and observe. We are only limiting hands-on participants, not attendees. This is not your average seminar, and should be a huge success.

President's Message

Greetings...as the hunting seasons draw to a close and a new year begins, I hope this letter finds everyone doing well and your freezers full. I'm not sure if I was offered the good fortune to serve as the MTA president because some of you thought I would be good at it, or if no one else was willing to take on the responsibilities. Either way I'm looking forward to the opportunity to take on this position and work hard to make the MTA the best it can be. Keep in mind this is very new to me and with any luck the next couple of years should be very good for the MTA and its members. I am always looking for suggestions of ways to make the MTA better, whether it is an idea for fundraising, seminars, competition changes, or activities, I'm open for recommendations. I'm also available if anyone has any questions. Feel free to call me at 816-724-0271 or email me at cole@timberlandtaxidermy.net. I look forward to the next couple of years.

**MTA Business Meeting Minutes
January 19th, 2013**

The meeting began with the reading of the minutes and a financial report was given. A motion was made and passed to add an additional \$4000.00 to CD. A motion to split the position of Secretary/Treasurer was made and passed and the split will be made at the next meeting. A motion was made and passed to reduce the number of meetings from 4 to 3. A motion was also made and passed to have vendors/suppliers pay for their own banquet tickets. Another motion was made to purchase a projector for our association. The motion was table until next meeting. Cole will be checking on prices. Doug said that Russ Pendergraft manager of the Classic offered booths to anyone wanting to attend again this year. Don Cross is setting up the judges for the competition, and Kevin Berten will be working on getting vendors and seminars for this year's competition. Meeting Adjourned!